

£20,000 JUDO OUTFIT

Could an Action Man accessory sell for thousands?



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Part one of our in-depth guide to Meccano aircraft kits



COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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Express Toys 14 May
The Dave Robinson Toy Collection 27 May
Fine Toys for the Collector 30 July



A selection from The Dave Robinson Diecast and Tinplate Toy Collection

Our Express Toy sale on 14 May includes a large and impressive 7,000-piece VE Day Parade of new toy soldier figures and vehicles to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May; it will also include a great wealth of modern issues, including white metal. The huge and eclectic diecast, tinplate and plastic toy collection of the well-known and respected MSMC member Dave Robinson will be sold on 27 May. It includes diverse vehicle and aircraft models from the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Israel, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Holland, USA and South American countries. Our Fine Toys for the Collector sale on 30 July already includes two good tinplate toy collections, as well as top-quality white metal racing and sports cars, mostly from St. Martins Models. We are now taking in toy, train and figure consignments for our sales from May to July. These auctions offer buyers rarities as well as a huge range of affordable toys and trains, with estimates from £50 upwards.

To consign now, for further information on our regular sales or to get a valuation please contact:
Hugo Marsh or Bob Leggett +44 (0)1635 580595 or hugo@specialauctionservices.com

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■ AUCTION PREVIEW

GETTING THE CHOP

Action Man Judo Outfit could sell for as much as £20,000 at Vectis Auctions.

A collection belonging to an ex Palitoy sales rep has uncovered some incredible finds, including a piece dubbed the 'holy grail' of Action Man collectables. 88-year-old Doug Carpenter had previously worked at the company until the 1980s and had no idea the toys he was keeping in his loft could potentially be worth thousands.

One of the most incredible finds is a rare Action Man Judo Outfit that could sell for as much as £20,000, when it goes under the hammer at Vectis Auctions. Many Action Man experts thought the Judo Outfit may never have existed because it's considered to be so rare and they hardly ever

appear for sale.

The collection also includes clothing for the Battle of Britain pilot, Royal Hussar, Commando and Deep Sea Diver. What's more the Judo Outfit isn't the only sporting item and the auction, which is expected to take place in May or June, also includes Liverpool and Everton football strips, an Olympic Champion and Grand Prix racing car. Thankfully though, despite being kept in the loft and attic for decades, the condition of the items is superb, with many coming straight from the trade boxes kept by Doug.



Found in a loft, the Judo Outfit could be worth thousands.

Kathy Taylor from Vectis said: "There has been considerable interest already and a fever is building up for it. A lot of the value is down to the packaging and these are very scarce because they're in shop stock condition." ■

■ AUCTION PREVIEW

THE BEST IN SHOW AT LSK

OLIVER Leggett of Lacy, Scott & Knight Auctions has been in touch to let us know about a couple of very interesting sales in May and November.

The Bury St Edmunds-based auctioneer has recently taken in a collection of around 800 diecast models, including many pre-War Dinky examples, plus several promotional and rare releases.

"The collection has been consigned from a local collector who has been collecting for approximately 20 years," explained Oliver.

"The items have been purchased from various auctions and toy fairs, along with eBay and other sources. The collector always pursued the best items he could and covered many an area in the toy world. However, his focuses centred around Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Britains and Budgie Toys. His first ever model was the Corgi Toys No. 261 James Bond Aston Martin in gold."

Some of the items in the 16th May sale include the highly sought after Dinky Toys No. 920 Guy Delivery Van with the superb Heinz Ketchup bottle livery, which is estimated at £2,000 to £3,000; a Dinky

Toys Leyland Octopus in dark blue and yellow, which is pegged at £1,800 to £2,000; a Dinky Toys Gift Set No. 124 'Holiday' that is expected to sell for between £1,000 and £1,400 and a pre-War 'Crawfords' Type One Delivery Van, £800 to £1,000. Aside from the Dinky diecast, there is also a very rare Corgi Toys 'Jensens' Austin 7 Mini Saloon with original labelled box.

These are certainly set to be two sales to watch and we're hopefully catching up with Oliver in the next issue to get more inside info about the auctions. ■

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■ AUCTION REPORT

PAY AND DISPLAY

Two Matchbox shop display units among the top lots at Sheffield Auction Gallery.

MORE than 98% of the lots in Sheffield Auction Gallery's Specialist Collectable Toys Auction were sold in February's sale, with a total hammer price of more than £40,000. Top billing went to a three-inch scale live steam model of a Charles Burrell Traction Engine, which sold for £3,600 plus commission.

Paperwork for the engine suggested it had been started in the 1980s and only minor work was left to complete, including fitting a valve for the waterlifter, ashtray, whistle costing and name plaque – all of which were included.

Another interesting lot was a 1962 Matchbox tiered

A selection of the items sold at Sheffield Auction Gallery, including the Television Spaceman robot.



wooden and card point of sale shop display unit. Finished in yellow with a blue back board showing the No. 65 Jaguar 3.8 Sedan, the unit holds 75 vehicles but was missing its Perspex cover. Perfect for

displaying a collection or perhaps attracting attention at a swapmeet, the unit sold for £250 – well over the £70 to £100 pre-sale estimate.

However, that wasn't the only Matchbox display unit in

the auction and it was quickly followed by a revolving example from 1967. Featuring a clear plastic cover with the words 'Matchbox 2 Shillings' across the top in red and yellow, this would have also made an eye-catching item for £140.

Elsewhere an original boxed 1960s Alps (Japan) Battery Operated Television Spaceman Robot doubled its low estimate to make £400. The robot had a walking action, spinning eyes, scrolling television in chest and sound/light effects. Although the box had some crushing, the robot had no metal corrosion and retained its all-important antenna.

While we're talking about lots exceeding their

estimates, a pair of LEGO items sold for £260 – more than five times the top pre-sale estimate. The lot included No. 309 Model of Church with Legend and No. 314 set including wheels, tyres, two links, turn circle, etc. with original insert and leaflet.

Sheffield Auction Gallery's next sale on 23rd April promises to be a treat too as it will feature two 3.5-inch gauge live steam Gresley locomotives, an A4 Silver Link and A3 Flying Scotsman. "It is such a wonder to offer one of these iconic designs for sale but to have two in the same sale is such a delight," said John Morgan, senior valuer and auctioneer. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

THE ONLY WAY IS WESSEX

A mix of Dinky, Dublo and 007 was among the most sought after lots at Wessex Auction Rooms' specialist toy auction last month.

The latter subject provided two of the more interesting items, with a James Bond 007 10 Movie Characters Set by Gilbert bagging £90, despite damage to the box. Gilbert produced a range of Bond items, including action toy

sets that recreated famous scenes from the films, like the laser table in *Goldfinger*.

Another neat spy-themed lot was a 1966 tinplate 007 lunchbox by Aladdin Industries, Nashville USA. Bond's lunchbox certainly got an outing in *Casino Royale* when Daniel Craig wore some very tight swimming trunks, however this was far more pleasing to the eye and

realised an impressive £100. On the Dinky front, a French Dinky 25BV Fourgon Postal Peugeot D3A with 'Postes' decal in good condition sold for £100, a Dinky No. 968 BBC TV Roving Eye Vehicle with cameraman and signal in very good condition and with a good box made £85 and a boxed Dinky No. 959 Foden Dump Truck with Bulldozer Blade realised £85. ■



This James Bond lunchbox by Aladdin Industries was one of a number of 007-related items sold at Wessex Auction Rooms last month.

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH

OXFORD DIECAST DAVID BROWN TRACTOR RAF BLUE/GREY

Release: Out now Price: £4.95

It never ceases to amaze how much detail Oxford manages to cram into these tiny N gauge models. From the titchy steering wheel to the RAF logos at the front, this is a definite charmer.

>> www.oxforddiecast.co.uk



MATRIX JAGUAR D TYPE MICHELOTTI LE MANS

Release Out now Price £77.99

Matrix continues to produce some superbly detailed replicas, like this sleek '60s Jaguar, which is sure to go down well with fans of the marque. What's more it's limited to 400 pieces, so could be a sought after piece in the future.

>> www.matrixscalemodels.com

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NEWS

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■ INDUSTRY NEWS

HORNBY SERVES UP SANDWICH

SOME sad news recently for Hornby's historic Margate premises, as the company has announced that 150 of its staff are moving to a new site at Discovery Park, Sandwich. The Margate factory dates back more than 60 years, after being opened by Lines Bros in 1964.

However, recently Hornby has looked to move key functions from the building, after announcing last year

that its warehouse operation was moving to a new facility in Hersden near Canterbury. The moves are part of cost cutting measures by new chief executive Richard Ames.

Now the company's office-based operations, such as sales and marketing, will move to Sandwich in May, leaving a skeleton staff behind to run the popular visitor centre. ■



■ We are used to seeing Action Man figures go for hundreds at auctions... but what about the boxes? How much do you think they could be worth? Well the buyer of this Action Man Space Ranger Captain box thinks that good quality boxes could be worth almost as much as the figures they contain. This particular example sold for £177 on eBay and the buyer, who did not want to be named, said collectors should pay more attention to the boxes. "I'm sure some people will be surprised by the amount I paid for this box, but it shows that quality boxes are potentially worth money. People need to keep them in good condition, just like the figures."

B-T MODELS DODGE PARROT NOSE TIPPER HOVERINGHAM

Release Out now Price £7.99

You've got our sister publication *Diecast Collector* to thank for this release. After running an article about Hoveringham trucks, B-T Models was so taken with a Code 3 example, it has now provided an official release.

» www.ayrey.co.uk



007

We take a look through some classic Corgi catalogues featuring 007 in our latest Through the Archives on pg. 15.

5

Read about a toy shop abandoned for more than five years on page 16.

£71k

The Craig Stevens Star Wars collection has raised more than £71,000 at Vectis.

60

After 60 years, it looks like the end is in sight for Hornby's Margate premises.

177

The price paid for an empty Action Man box on eBay late last month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

» SALUTE 2015

An area of toy soldier collecting that's growing almost exponentially over the past few years, is the rise of wargaming toy figures for games like Bolt Action, Infinity and Dropzone Commander. If you're into wargaming then the best and biggest one-day event in the UK is Salute, organised by the South London Warlords. The aim for the show is to provide the best showcase with lots of UK and international traders, demonstration/participation games, as well as the renowned painting competition... which is sure to cause some painting envy. Tickets are now on sale from www.salute.co.uk and cost £10 in advance or £15 on the day. Under 16s are free with a paying adult. Salute 2015 takes place on 25th April from 10am until 5pm at Excel in London. We'll see you there!

» STOLEN COLLECTABLES

Norfolk Police are appealing for information regarding a burglary that took place in Ludham between 18th and 25th February. Stolen during the burglary was a collection of various collectables, including original comic books, Corgi Toys and diecast trains. Norfolk Police are keen to hear about anyone looking to sell or enquiring about the price of the following: a collection of Matchbox cars in a travelling case, two pressed tin locomotive trains in green, yellow and red livery from the 1950s and measuring seven-inches long, Corgi Toys including a Batmobile in a yellow/blue box and 30 other various Corgi items. PC David Mills said: "The persons selling may have no previous knowledge or experience with the collection. The enquiries may be predominantly in the county of Norfolk but obviously the suspect could contact any dealer or interested party within the UK." Anyone with information should contact PC David Mills on millsd@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or DC Riki Chase on chaser@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

» SINK OR SWIM

A Bing live steam tinplate Naval Gunboat made in Germany circa 1910 is expected to be the top lot at C&T Auctions' April sale, with an estimate of £4,000 to £6,000. The boat has a grey hull over dark grey keel, with brown deck, four funnels, two masts with armoured crow's nest and flags, four lifeboats, eight small revolving gun turrets (one loose) and two larger revolving gun turrets on forward and stern. Fitted with a horizontal burner and with a diamond logo plus the letters 'GBN' and 'Bavaria', the ship is in excellent original condition, measuring a whopping 82cm long! Hope you've got room on your mantle piece.

» A NEED FOR SPEED

With the Formula One season now underway, it's clearly an appropriate time for LEGO to launch its new Speed Champions sets. In collaboration with Ferrari, McLaren and Porsche, LEGO has created seven sets, including the Scuderia Ferrari truck with the F14 T racing car, a McLaren Mercedes pit stop, a Porsche set with a start and finish line, as well as four vehicle sets with GT and Road Cars including the LaFerrari, a Ferrari 458 Italia GT2, the McLaren P1 and the Porsche 918 Spyder. Ranging from £12.99 to £79.99 the sets are sure to go down well with LEGO fans and Formula One enthusiasts alike.

» FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

On the subject of Formula One, Scalextric has created one of its biggest ever tracks, as commissioned by Sky Sports F1 expert Martin Brundle. The massive 9m by 9m track is made from features of all the 20 circuits on this season's FIA Formula One World Championship calendar, such as the Monaco swimming pool, the Silverstone wing and more. What's more, this incredible track will be available to buy from www.scalextric.com for around £1,000.

■ AUCTION REPORT

GERMAN
ENGINEERING

JNF Mercedes W196F racing car, sold for £140.



Below you can see some of the great details.



YOU'VE got to hand it to the Germans, throughout the 20th century they produced some of the best tinplate toys around. With the likes of Schuco and Marklin, Germany really was the market leader in tinplate... before it was arguably taken over by Japan with its fancy tinplate robots and flying saucers.

An example of Germany's super eye for detail was demonstrated in the February Bourne Collective Sale at Golding Young & Mawer, with a mid 20th century JNF Mercedes W196F racing car finished in silver with a painted tartan interior, which sold for £140. JNF (also known as Josef Neuhierl of Fürth)

was part of a group of German manufacturers in the '50s that produced great tinplate motor cars. JNF started out, like so many German toy manufacturers, in Nuremberg in the 1920s but moved to Fürth in 1934. It mainly produced cars, racing cars, trucks and planes. However, in the 1970s it switched to making race car tracks and created the Carrera Track. Production of tinplate toys was abandoned in 1974 and JNF changed its name to Carrera Toys. Now Carrera has become one of the key names in slot car manufacturing but it's interesting to see how it started out. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

VECTIS
STRIKES BACK

The Craig Stevens 3 3/4" Palitoy Star Wars Collection realises £71,376.



Craig's collection of Star Wars figures has featured some incredibly rare and some very high quality items. This really is the top end of Star Wars collecting.

LAST issue we reported on the Craig Stevens Star Wars collection, which was being sold at Vectis Auctions. Craig had been an avid Star Wars collector for decades and even helped to run the fan club during the 1990s. However, the decision to buy a house meant that he was being forced (pun intended) to sell his incredible action figure collection over the course of two auctions.

The previous sale was dominated by an £18,000 Boba Fett figure, however that wasn't the only highlight in Craig's collection and part two featured 15 more lots, which raised a staggering £29,580... ensuring the entire selection of Star Wars items raised a whopping £71,376, just under the top £75,000 estimate.

Top among the second sale



Empire Strikes Back FX-7.



Bespin Security Guard.

was a Palitoy Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back IG-88 (Bounty Hunter) in near mint to mint condition, which realised £4,200 (including

commission). The figure was on a 30B un-punched card back and still featured the original price sticker saying: "D.J.'s Toys 1.40P"... so a nice little profit on that original price, eh?

Other intergalactic treats included a Palitoy Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back Bespin Security Guard (white) on a 30A un-punched card (£3,240), Palitoy Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back FX-7 on a 30A un-punched card (£2,760) and a Palitoy Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back Han Solo (Bespin Outfit) on a 30B un-punched card (£2,400).

With the new Star Wars film due in cinemas later this year, it'll be interesting to see if prices continue to rise, as interest grows in the franchise. Although prices are pretty high already! ■

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH

MINICHAMPS OPEL GT 1900

Release Out now Price £109.99

Minichamps has a reputation for making outstanding replicas and, judging by this new release, you can see why. The green finish is applied perfectly and the interior even features leather seats. It's limited to 600 pieces, so this one might sell out quickly!

» www.minichamps.com

SCHLEICH
DC COMICS
JUSTICE LEAGUE

Release Out now

Price £7.99

Schleich is a name that's normally associated with figures of dinosaurs or animals, however it's recently moved into the action figure market – although the 'action' is limited to the dynamic poses. Schleich's new Justice League range includes famous superheroes like Superman, Batman and The Flash.

» www.schleich-s.com

NECA DELUXE ACTION
FIGURE 1966 ROBIN

Release 30th March Price £99.99

Yes, it may not be particularly cheap but the detail on this Robin figure is absolutely fantastic. Made to a 1/4 scale, this 17-inch tall replica comes with a fabric cape, six interchangeable hands, Batarang and communicator. An absolute must for any fans of the '66 live action show.

» www.necaonline.com



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■ AUCTION REPORT

LOCO FOR CO-CO

Plus, bidders shoot it out for Lone Ranger collection at Lacy, Scott & Knight.

THERE was certainly a wonderful mix of items on offer at Lacy, Scott & Knight's recent Toys & Collectors Models sale, including a few particularly eclectic pieces such as a Playmobile 'G' gauge train set (which sold for £60).

Before we venture into the more weird and wonderful lots, it's worth picking up on a handful of Hornby Dublo locos that, appropriately considering the brand name, doubled their pre-sale estimates. First up was a Hornby Dublo 3232 Co-Co Diesel Locomotive, in good condition, complete with its original (scuffed box). With a low estimate of £45, the Co-Co powered its way to £120.

However, this wasn't the only Co-Co to set the auction alight, as it was followed by a Hornby Dublo 3-rail 'St Paddy' Co-Co Diesel. Despite having no box and featuring some playwear mainly to the roof, this loco had the luck of the Irish and sold for £120; double its top estimate. The Co-Cos were also joined by a Hornby Dublo L30 Bo-Bo



Here's just one of the Co-Co locos that was sold at Lacy, Scott & Knight in February.

Diesel Locomotive, complete with box, instructions and guarantee, which realised £75.

Elsewhere another hit proved to be a collection of Marx Toys Lone Ranger figures and accessories, including No. 7401 boxed Tonto figure, No. 7400 The Lone Ranger figure, No. 7408 Silver Stallion Horse, No. 7409 Scout Horse, boxed Indian canoe, unboxed Lone Ranger Stables and a small quantity of various accessories and unboxed Butch Cavendish figure. Estimated at £50 to £80, the Lone Ranger kept riding to £200. After the film in 2013 there seems to have been some renewed interest in Lone Ranger products,

despite the fact the film was a commercial flop.

Finally, another successful lot that really took off was a Schuco Elektro Radiant 5600 BOAC aircraft. The super tinplate aircraft has a complicated battery-powered mechanism that sees the engines revving up one by one, before it speeds off across the table and then stops. Schuco released several variations of the same plane in different liveries, e.g. KLM and Pan Am. Despite having some discolouration to the model and a repaired box, the Radiant soared to £190, more than double its low estimate. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

INTERNET SALE NETS IT IN

OVER the past few years the internet has really revolutionised collecting, whether it's buying items from eBay or talking about collectables on numerous specialist forums, the internet has certainly provided a huge boost to collecting. One area in particular that has been affected are traditional auctions, which now often see more people logging in online than punters in the room on sale day. In fact, some auctioneers like Cottees in Dorset hold internet-only sales during the evening, which are aimed at those working folk who may not be able to get to an auction during the day.

One such internet-only auction took place in late January, with the majority of items being sold. There was an interesting mix of collectables from fairly modern model railways to numerous diecast examples.

"Dinky, Corgi and Spot-On attracted a lot of interest," said Cottees' John Burch, "notably a Tri-ang Spot-On 307 Volkswagen, which sold for £285 and No. 289 Morris Minor 1000 that sold for £230. Both were mint or near mint and boxed.

"The auction also



This Corgi Popeye Paddlewagon made £260.

confirmed the interest in early boxed Wiking HO vehicles, as two collections of 13 and 12 models, sold for £210 and £230 respectively."

In the OO railway section, £160 was paid for a Trafford Model Centre BR West Country 'Swanage' while a Hornby R2528 Merchant Navy French Line made £110. Both were mint and boxed. Elsewhere Wrenn also sold well, with a near mint boxed W3006/7 'Brighton Belle' two car set making £230 and a W2246 CR Blue 2-6-4T realising £205.

2015 promises to be an exciting time for Cottees as it plans to move to new premises later this year. We'll be keeping an eye on developments and hope to report from the first toy sale in the new building. ■

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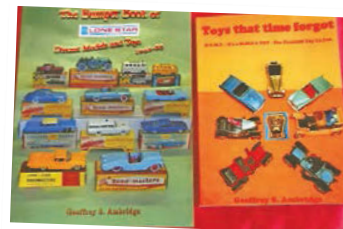
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Geoff Ambridge is the son of founder Director, Sidney J. Ambridge and
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■ COLLECTING NEWS

THE DIECAST 'BIBLE'

Ramsay's 15th edition available to pre-order from April.

WE'VE got some great news for diecast collectors and dealers because the 15th edition of Ramsay's *British Diecast Model Toys Catalogue* will be available in stores or direct from Warners Group Publications from 15th May. To ensure you don't miss out on your copy of this indispensable reference, you can pre-order from 1st April.

Like previous editions, this latest version has been fully updated by a team of experts who have scoured thousands of auction results over the past three years to ensure the market value prices are updated. What's more, since the last edition, any pre-production pieces or unusual



new to market variations have been added to ensure collectors can identify those rare pieces in their collection.

The 15th edition is the best Ramsay's ever, with 356 pages crammed with more than 19,000 listings. In fact, a total of more than 500 new models have been added to this latest catalogue, ensuring it retains its reputation as the

'bible' for any serious diecast collectors and dealers.

As in previous editions, each manufacturer has been allocated its own section with models listed by their model numbers. Every model is given a Market Price Range (MPR). The price gap between the lower and higher figures indicates the likely price range a collector should expect to pay for the model. What's more, brand new all-colour photographs have been included throughout to help collectors identify rare or unusual vehicles. Plus, new indexes for many sections are included in this edition, making it even easier for users to find exactly what they are looking for within this comprehensive guide. ■

■ COLLECTING NEWS

DIGITAL DELIGHTS

Grab yourself a bargain with back issues of the *Collectors Gazette* for just 99p!

IN other price guide news, the latest digital edition of the *Toy Collectors Price Guide* is now available to download from the App Store and from the Pocketmags website. The quarterly digital edition brings together prices for diecast vehicles, model railways, TV and film memorabilia, plus lots more.

Also, as an extra bonus, we've pulled out some features from the *Collectors Gazette* archives to give you an in-depth guide to some great collectables. Like some of the more unusual Batman toys, Vanwall Racing Cars and the history of detailed Italian diecast



kit maker Pocher.

Plus, while we're on the subject of the *Collectors Gazette* archives, did you know you can download back issues of the digital edition of the *Gazette* for just 99p each? That's right, if you've ever missed an issue you just need to head to the Pocketmags website and take a look through the back issues section, then select your chosen issue. ■

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■ BOOK REVIEW

MORE VINTAGE YEARS OF AIRFIX BOX ART

Crowood has just published a wonderful follow-up to Roy Cross's superb *The Vintage Years of Airfix*, featuring all-manner of incredible artwork from the boxes of plastic kits like the Ford 3-litre GT Racer and, our personal favourite, the Toyota 2000GT from *You Only Live Twice*.

Roy Cross, just in case you're not aware, was the principle artist for Airfix during the 1960s and '70s. During that time he created some of the most iconic images of Airfix's famous kits, which were then used for advertising and the box art. A selection of Roy's artwork was sold at Vectis last year, so the book is a great opportunity to gaze lovingly at these delightful drawings for those who missed out on owning an original.

Roy recalls how he had seen the original bagged Airfix kits in Woolworth's and knew he could draw better. He approached Airfix with a showcase of his work and the rest, as they say, is history. This book actually includes some of those early illustrations Roy drew before working for Airfix.



The book is a follow-up, featuring plenty of all-new artwork.

There are plenty of dramatic scenes like this fantastic piece.



There are also insights into the work behind each illustration.

Elsewhere Roy gives some insight into the background of his Airfix illustrations, along with behind-the-scenes info about the models themselves. As such, it's a valuable resource for Airfix fans. ■

» *More Vintage Years of Airfix Box Art* is available in book stores, priced £35 or you can order it direct from the publisher www.crowood.com

■ AUCTION REPORT

WRENN SCORES IN RUGBY

Vectis' Benn Hall auction proves a success for Wrenn collectors.



If you're a fan of Wrenn then Vectis' Train & Toy Sale at the Benn Hall in Rugby would have certainly been a treat as there were plenty of mint locomotives and coaches up for grabs.

One in particular – a Wrenn W2303 4-6-2 locomotive and tender Streamlined Coronation Class 'King George VI' LMS maroon No. 6244, again in near mint to mint condition, which realised £640 (once again, £240 above the top pre-sale estimate).

Finally, an interesting Wrenn piece was a prototype model of a 4-4-2 'Adams Radial' Tank in LSWR green, unpowered No. 52. This was a white metal kit that had been professionally built and painted, although it was only fully detailed on the left hand side so it could be used in photographic advertising in volume two of the Wrenn catalogue. It sold for £340, more than triple its low estimate. ■

'Queen Elizabeth' LMS blue No. 6221, also in near mint to mint condition sold for £640 (£240 above its top estimate).

It was followed by a Wrenn W2302 4-6-2 locomotive and tender Streamlined Coronation Class 'King George VI' LMS maroon No. 6244, again in near mint to mint condition, which realised £640 (once again, £240 above the top pre-sale estimate).

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NEXT MONTH MAY 2015

» OVER FOR ROVER

Looking back at Rover cars, 10 years after production stopped.

» PLAYING TRAINS

Behind the scenes at NRM's new celebration of toy locos.

» COCOCUBS

Best of British remembers Britains Cococubs range.



*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

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Through the Archives

Rob Burman gets shaken and stirred by some classic James Bond imagery.

NEW SERIES EXCLUSIVE
TO COLLECTORS GAZETTE!

Along with the Batmobile, one of Corgi's most iconic diecast vehicles from the world of TV and film is the superb James Bond Aston Martin DB5. In fact, it's so impressive, Corgi has recently re-released the replica to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the original and it's quickly sold out.

However, the DB5 isn't the only James Bond-inspired vehicle that Corgi released and from the 1960s it consistently looked to the popular 007 films for inspiration, including *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *You Only Live Twice* and *For Your Eyes Only*. Of course, Corgi was keen to promote its growing super spy range and Bond regularly featured in catalogues with some particularly memorable artwork.

During our dig through the Corgi part of the Hornby Archive we found numerous catalogues featuring Bond cars and a couple, as you can see, also included some super front cover artwork featuring the world's favourite SMERSH-busting hero. So, for this month's exploration of vintage information, we're concentrating on 007 collectables. **CG**



First we travel back to 1967 with this suitably dramatic page showcasing the upcoming slightly larger Aston Martin DB5 (No. 270) and the new Toyota 2000 from *You Only Live Twice*, listed simply as "AVAILABLE LATER".



By 1978 the Bond range had expanded again, this time to include vehicles from Roger Moore's latest outing in *The Spy Who Loved Me*. The quotes from Bond are great: "It's a good job my Lotus is ingeniously equipped for underwater missions." It is a good job 007!



Here's the cover from the same 1978 catalogue, recreating the famous scene when Bond speeds off the jetty and into the water, chased by Stromberg's Jet Ranger helicopter. Why can't catalogues be like this anymore?



Talking of super catalogue covers, take a look at this brilliant entry from 1966 - which saw the introduction of the DB5. The bandit being catapulted out of the passenger as shocked onlookers pass by is fantastic.



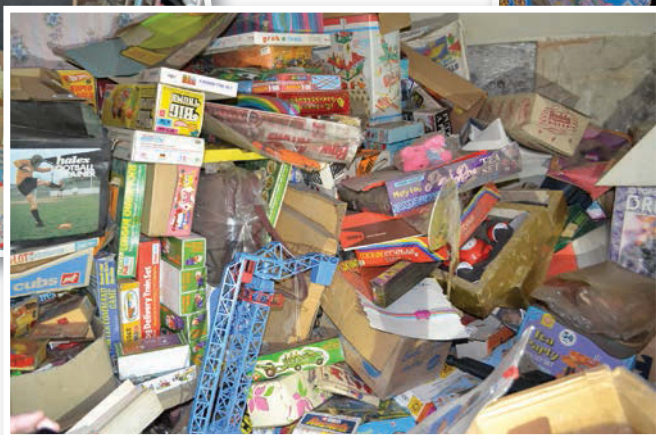
"Corgi have done the impossible!" boasts the same 1966 catalogue. "A working model of the James Bond Aston Martin. Only Corgi could do it - a fabulous working model 007's famous Aston Martin DB5, the 'star' of *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball*."



Skip forward to 1969 now and Corgi is still highlighting the DB5 and Toyota 2000. Although this time there's a handy little diagram to show how the rockets can be fired in different directions from the Toyota.

Treasure trove

Rob Burman uncovers a wealth of collectables in an abandoned toy shop.



MAIN IMAGE It's amazing to think that up until five years ago, this was actually how the shop was being operated. The top right picture is the front of the shop where customers would pop in to ask for toys before Dorothy would scuttle off.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

+ "I'LL JUST POP IN THE BACK..."

One customer told us how he and some friends decided to buy a model Harrier Jump Jet for a friend. One Saturday he travelled to Liverpool, Chester, Wrexham and Rhyl looking for such a model but was told that stocks were hard to come by. However, while passing the Frank Beech toy shop, he thought it might be worth a try. Upon asking for an Airfix Harrier, Dorothy quickly replied: "Do you want the GR1A or the GR3, I'm afraid we've sold out of the GR1."

If you're a fan of historical fiction, then you'll often come across tales of treasure hunters who brave ancient tombs to find rare gems or dive to the depths of the ocean to uncover sunken gold in treacherous shipwrecks. In some ways collectors are very much like the daring adventurers of fiction, although there's a bit of a difference between an early morning car boot and an abandoned Aztec temple.

However, recently we came close to experiencing the thrill of being an explorer after getting a call from Vectis Auctions. "Would you like to see an abandoned toy shop from the 1940s?" came the call. To say we dropped everything is a slight understatement and within a couple of days we were on the road to Holywell in North

Wales to take a look round the Frank Beech toy shop, which turned out to be one of the most impressive hauls of toys we've ever seen.

The beginnings of the shop and how it came into its present state are a little confusing and there are numerous tales from local folk about its history. One of the most common elements is that in the 1940s Frank Beech opened a photography shop in the building so the people of Holywell could have their wedding photographs, etc. developed.

However, this is where things get a little murky. Local historian Bryan Taylor told us that Frank Beech was joined by his daughter, Dorothy Richardson who opened the toy shop part of the establishment. However, there's a little confusion as to whether

Dorothy ran the shop with her brother or husband. One of the most consistent stories is that Dorothy and her husband, Stanley, ran the shop together until his death. Dorothy then tried to run the store on her own but five years ago decided that enough was enough and shut everything up. Now the contents of the shop have been cleared by Vectis and will be sold in a future auction (or two... or three).

The amazing thing is that since the door was closed in 2009 the shop has remained in the exact condition it was on that day... and that condition was, to put it politely, an absolute bomb site. Each room was packed pretty much to the ceiling with boxes of toys from the 1960s to the early 2000s. In some areas we were told the only thing holding up the structure of the building

was the amount of toys piled up against a wall. At one point, our guide showed us what looked like a heap of toys but explained that actually it was a stair well filled up with boxes and, sure enough, when we went downstairs we saw toys tumbling out the bottom of the stairwell.

Incredibly though, despite the shop being in this shocking condition, it was operating up until the day it closed. "She knew where absolutely everything was," historian Bryan told us. "You could go in and ask for a particular toy and she would potter off upstairs somewhere and come back with it in a few minutes. Sometimes, if she wasn't quite sure about the location, she would ask people to come back in the following day and, sure enough, it would be waiting for them on the counter."

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ABOVE It was amazing that even though there was some evidence of rodents, they hadn't nibbled all the cardboard on potentially valuable items like this.

LEFT If this was a television programme, we wouldn't have believed it but among all the junk was a box of 96 mint *Star Wars Return of the Jedi* figures.



FAR LEFT There was seemingly something to see in every pile. Here you can just spot a potentially valuable *Knight Rider* toy.

LEFT An Airfix Colditz Glider was one of the highlights seen in one room. Surprisingly it was in great condition.

RIGHT Boxes of loose toy soldiers were a very common sight, such as these Airfix soldiers. Others included Herald and Crescent.



"However, people never actually went inside the rest of the shop, so we had no idea about the amount of stock in there. We knew there was a lot but not the amount we've seen being brought out by the auctioneer. Throughout the 1960s and '70s she was doing a roaring trade but I think

during its heyday it had some wonderful window displays. I remember seeing impressive displays from Tri-ang, Meccano and LEGO, so Dorothy certainly had some good contacts and the shop had a fantastic reputation among manufacturers. Even if she didn't have it in stock,

as many of the toys left in the shop were from this period. So, for example, one room was pretty much lined with shelves of Fisher Price products from the early '80s that she simply hadn't been able to sell.

However, dotted among some of the less valuable

action figures. Although not the mega rare Palitoy figures from the original *Star Wars*, some of these individual figures can still be worth up to £100... and Vectis found SEVEN similar *Star Wars* trade boxes.

Other highlights included mint trade boxes of Action Man figures and accessories from the 1960s and '70s, along with Raleigh bicycles that were still wrapped in plastic, Subbuteo teams and Tri-ang pedal cars. And that's really just scratching the surface because there were hundreds, if not thousands of individual toys found inside the store.

"I think that towards the end Dorothy was stock rich but cash poor," explains Bryan. "I certainly don't think she realised that some of the toys might be collectable

now and that people might pay a lot for them. She was probably just remembering what she paid for them decades ago and thinking they would be worth that... or even less!"

Now, of course, old toys are big business and Vectis will be selling some of the shop contents across several upcoming auctions and there's certainly a lot of it. During our trip there had already been seven van loads and the shop was probably more than half full. It'll be interesting to see what other gems were among the empty boxes and we'll be following the progress of this collection very closely over the coming months. **CG**

Since it closed in 2009, the shop has remained in the exact condition it was on that day... and that condition was, to put it politely, an absolute bomb site. Each room was packed pretty much to the ceiling with boxes of toys.

that from the '80s onwards she began to buy more stock than she could sell because people's tastes in toys started to change.

"It's a real shame to see it in the state it is now because

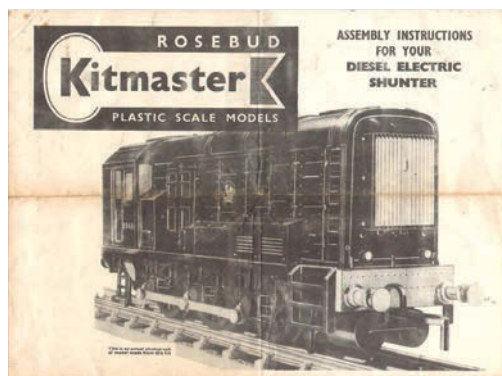
she could always put a call into the supplier and have it within a couple of days."

From looking round the shop, it certainly looks like things tended to tail off for Dorothy in the late 1970s,

toys were absolute gems. In one room seemingly full of empty boxes damaged by water leaking through the roof, we opened one box to discover 96 mint on card *Star Wars Return of the Jedi*

Kitmaster railways

Mark Nolan remembers the train kits that broke the mould.



LEFT TO RIGHT The illustration of the Diesel Electric Shunter from the kit instructions; adverts from the 1961 Gamage catalogue show the motorising units, TT and OO coaches, plus the Royal Scot and the Evening Star.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

There are a surprising number of unmade kits still available through the usual collectable channels. Some of the most popular survivors command high prices, including the Beyer Garratt (£100), the Blue Pullman restaurant car (£35) and any locos not continued by Airfix (£50-70). Coaches come in around £20-25. There are also a couple of presentation sets which command high prices. They are '100 Years of British Steam' consisting of Rocket, Duchess of Gloucester and the Stirling Single, released in 1959. The Battle of Britain set from 1960 includes Biggin Hill and three matching Mk 1 coaches.

Kitmaster was actually an offshoot of another company called Rosebud, so its full title is Rosebud Kitmaster. The Rosebud company was started by a man called Thomas Eric Smith, although he was always known as T Eric Smith. His family had prior experience of toy manufacture, and he became responsible for the family business at the early age of 15 due to the death of his father. Smith and his loyal workers started making dolls after the Second World War from his factory in Raunds, a small market town in Northamptonshire. The company was then known as Rosebud Dolls, responsible for a huge number of toys being produced in a frankly austere UK, which was still recovering from the

economic hardships caused by the war.

Like many companies who had invested in new plastic injection moulding machines, Rosebud also produced many other household items including combs, beach balls, buckets and a range of

with the first complete ready to run plastic construction kits for the railway modeller. The Kitmaster range nicely complemented the Airfix rolling stock series which followed, making for an almost seamless amalgamation of the two later on.

in the April 1959 *Meccano Magazine* announced 'At last! Plastic Scale Model Railway Kits. Authentic Models with Moving Parts. Can be used on OO and HO Gauge Tracks.' Each kit included instructions, a colour leaflet, transfers and a tube of plastic

The range consisted of kits of locomotives and carriages, but did not extend to wagons, buildings or small accessories like those produced by Airfix.

'Neneware' kitchenware.

Rosebud Kitmaster was formed in 1958 to manufacture model kits of railway locos and carriages. This was partly to make use of spare capacity, as well as meeting a growing demand for accurate railway kits. As such, the company was far ahead of its time

THE RANGE

The range consisted of kits of locomotives and carriages, but did not extend to wagons, buildings or small accessories like those produced by Airfix. Production started in 1959 with the avowed intention of producing a new kit every month. A full page advert

came. The models depicted were Stephenson's Rocket, an 0-6-0 diesel electric shunter, an early American 'General' loco and a Southern 4-4-0 Schools Class 'Harrow' loco. The company also boasted: "A fresh, new model is coming out every month".

Of note were the Deltic

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LEFT This scenic view shows how good the models can look when carefully assembled and painted.

BELOW The box artwork for the units comprising the Blue Pullman shows the Power Car (of which two would be required), the Parlour Car and the Kitchen Car.



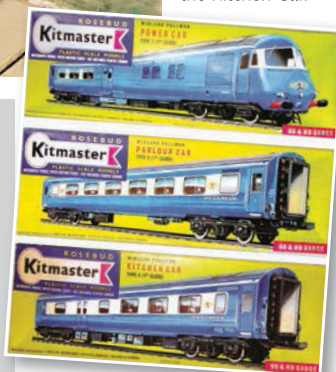
Two versions of Biggin Hill; the top picture shows the original Kitmaster artwork while the lower version is the later Airfix picture which has a more contemporary look.



This advert from the Meccano Magazine shows the Rocket, diesel shunter, American 'General' and Schools class 'Harrow', announcing "A fresh, new model is coming out every month".



The trade publication Games and Toys magazine from 1959 announces the new range of plastic scale model railway kits planned by Rosebud Kitmaster and shows the Rocket and the Duchess of Gloucester.



RIGHT When Kitmaster sold out to Airfix, steps were taken to clear a large amount of unsold stock, resulting in this distinctive ad from a Shredded Wheat cereal packet. The offer is the Deltic diesel or Evening Star loco down from 10/6 to 5/11, and the BR dining car and corridor/brake coach; the pair worth 16/- were available for 8/9d including postage. All purchases included postage and required two yellow 'Z' tokens and a postal order for the exact amount

in original blue livery, the 'Duchess of Gloucester' Coronation class and a standard BR Mogul 76000 class 2-6-0 in black. A spectacular Beyer Garratt loco described as 'ex London Midland region' topped the bill, along with a Stirling single and an ex L&Y 0-4-0 saddle tank at the other end of the scale. The other UK locos were a Battle of Britain pacific, a GWR City of Truro, a 9F 2-10-0 'Evening Star' and a J94 0-6-0 saddle tank. Not forgetting the power car for the Blue Pullman, of which more later.

The continental locos included a Swiss 'Crocodile', a French 241P 'Mountain'; a German 'Baureihe' Class 23 and New York Central 'Hudson', which was unusual as it was scaled to HO.

Kitmaster also got into TT gauge which was then

being promoted by Tri-ang as a space saving alternative to OO. The TT range was spearheaded with a rebuilt 'Royal Scot'. The rest of the range consisted of four coaches each available in BR maroon or SR green.

So, with no wagons, accessories or lineside buildings, this was a very focussed range consisting exclusively of locos and coaching stock in OO and TT.

HO AND OO CONFUSION

We have often seen continental manufacturers like Trix, Lima and Jouef (Playcraft) make the mistake of trying to sell British outline models in HO scale to the UK market. Although HO and OO run on the same track, OO is noticeably larger and they just don't mix. Rosebud Kitmaster made the same mistake the other way round; it fixed on

a universal OO scale, with the result that its continental models looked much too large next to their HO brethren. British railway enthusiasts are famously blinkered about 'foreign' trains so there was little interest in continental outline in the UK. The foreign models must have been aimed at the overseas market, but as the kits were out of scale, they did not sell that well. Consequently the development costs of many of those kits were never recouped.

THE MODELS IN DETAIL

Prototypes such as the Deltic and the Blue Pullman were at the absolute cutting edge of rail technology, and Kitmaster was obviously influenced by these developments. The Deltics were making waves on the East Coast Main Line, replacing the famous record breaking Gresley A4

steam express locos. The Blue Pullmans were luxury express diesel multiple units (DMU) running from London to Manchester, which in some ways presaged the highly successful and still current 125 High Speed Trains introduced from 1976. The Deltic was later modelled by Hornby Dublo, while Tri-ang produced its own Blue Pullman. However, Tri-ang never made a kitchen car for its set, so that particular coach was always highly sought after. Kitmaster fans also claim that Rosebud made a better job than Tri-ang of capturing the lines of the distinctive front end of the Blue Pullman.

Small locos like the Pug, the J94 saddle tank and the diesel shunter would have been chosen to fill gaps at the bread and butter end of the proprietary market, while the large express locos such as the 9F, Battle of Britain and Duchess (Coronation) were catering for the glamour element. As for the Beyer Garratt, that was just a bankers choice; only seen by a few enthusiasts in a specific part of the UK, it was always an odd design to have been adopted, both in real life and in model form. But that was all part of the charm of Kitmaster.

MOTORISATION

Kitmaster was all too aware how our minds work; with the price of a kit being in shillings and a ready to run loco in pounds, it wouldn't be long before any self respecting modeller would be pondering the possibility of motorising the loco kits, or more simply, a wagon, to drive a dummy loco. Kitmaster therefore produced two motorising

kits to help enthusiasts realise their dreams. KM1 was a 'Coach Electric Motor Bogie' at 27/6d while KM2 was described as an 'electric motorized box wagon' to be used with Kitmaster freight engines. This cost 35/- and came in the form of a complete wagon. Various motorising kits were also offered by outside manufacturers.

SALE TO AIRFIX

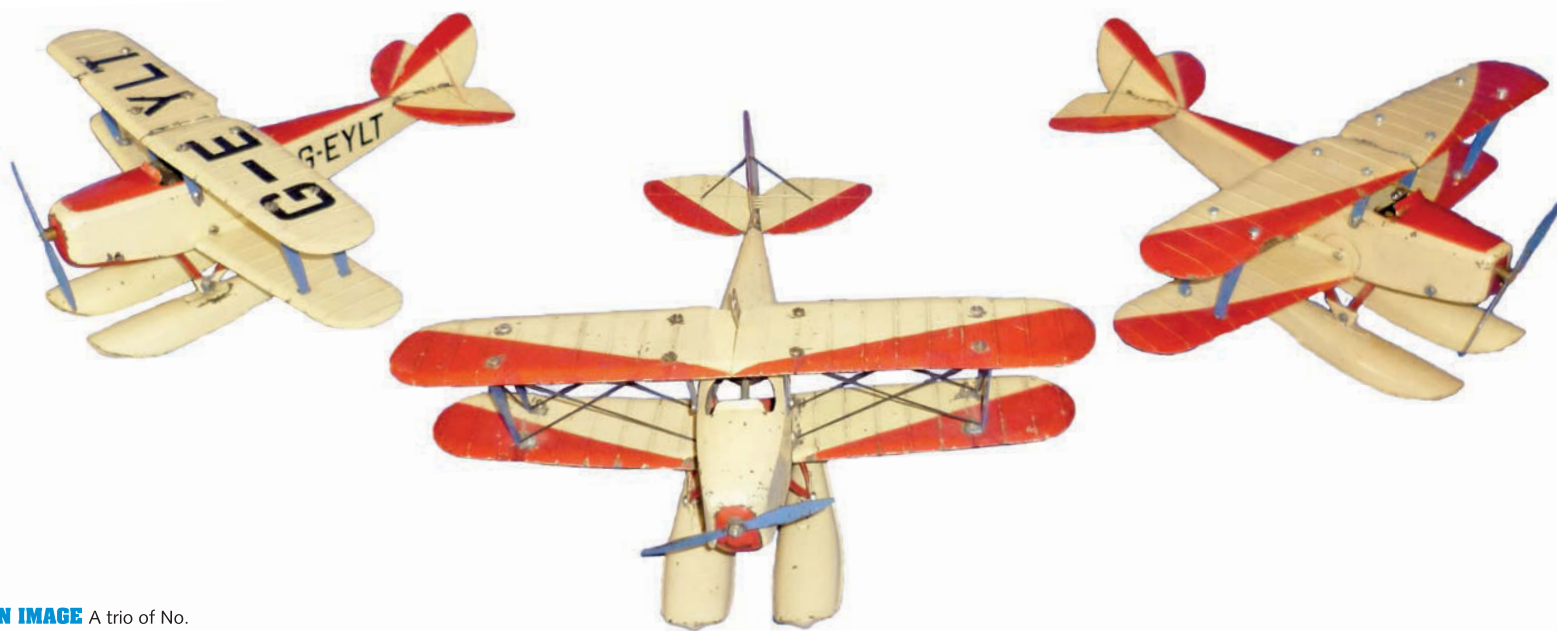
Although Kitmaster succeeded in producing 34 models over the following three-year period, bringing out so many new kits was an expensive process. While concentrating on producing the models, marketing and distribution costs were also high, and cash flow suffered. Eventually Kitmaster was forced to admit that its business model was not sustainable. In 1962 the tools and existing stocks were sold to the obvious suitor; Airfix.

Airfix set about disposing of surplus kits, many through a promotion on the back of Shredded Wheat cereal packets. It also modified and re-introduced many of the loco kits, however the coaches and the continental locos were never re-introduced. A testament to their integrity and quality is that some of the locomotive kits are still available today from Dapol, and it is still using the same tools. **CG**

Aim for the skies

PART 1

Paul Lumsdom charts the history of Meccano Aeroplane Constructor outfits.



MAIN IMAGE A trio of No. 0 Seaplanes including (left) a later variant from 1938 with civil markings.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

• AUCTION PRICES

If you're interested in picking up some of the Meccano Constructor Aeroplanes for yourself, then you might need some deep pockets. In January a No. 2 Outfit that had been expertly restored sold at Vectis Auctions for £240. It was complete in its original box. And it's not just the sets themselves that are desirable too because 2013 saw a Meccano card advertising sign depicting one of the planes sell for £150. This would have made a fantastic display piece for a room.

Anyone who read my articles about the Meccano Motor Car Constructor outfits, published in *Collectors Gazette* last year, will know that I am a huge fan of all the Constructor Series that were produced by Frank Hornby's Binns Road factory and its overseas factory in Bobigny near Paris during the 1930s. Being an avid aviation enthusiast as well, I was particularly keen to follow up my previous articles with a similar review of the Aeroplane Constructor outfits and so I am delighted to offer a new two part series of these wonderful construction toys.

During the 1920s Meccano Ltd had enjoyed huge success with its all-metal construction kits that brought

miniature engineering and design creativity to literally millions of boys (and girls) around the world. But like all good businesses, Frank Hornby and his management team were constantly aware of the need to innovate and

through troubled times including a global depression and the lead up to the Second World War, the Meccano Constructor Series kits were hugely successful in their day, but have become perhaps even more successful today

announced to the world in the October 1931 edition of *Meccano Magazine*. The No. 1 and 2 outfits were rushed into production in time for Christmas 1931 (perhaps before they were fully developed as improvements

The Constructor Series retained all the positive creative play aspects of Meccano but added a degree of more realism and is now a highly prized collectable.

diversify into new areas.

In my opinion, one of the finest results of the product development programme, was the Constructor Series. It retained all the positive creative play aspects of Meccano but added a degree of more realism. While only produced for a decade, and

as highly prized collectables commanding prices at auction that run into many hundreds of pounds (even thousands) for good examples and rarer variations.

NO. 1 AND NO. 2 OUTFITS

The very first Aeroplane Constructor outfits were

were quickly introduced the following year).

The No. 1 outfit featured special interchangeable parts to construct six different types of aircraft. The No. 2 outfit was a much larger set featuring all the parts from the No. 1 but with additional pieces including

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ABOVE Two models from a 2S set clearly show additional parts and moving control surfaces that were unique to these sets.



LEFT This immaculate and complete boxed 1931 No. 1 set is really scarce and extremely collectable.



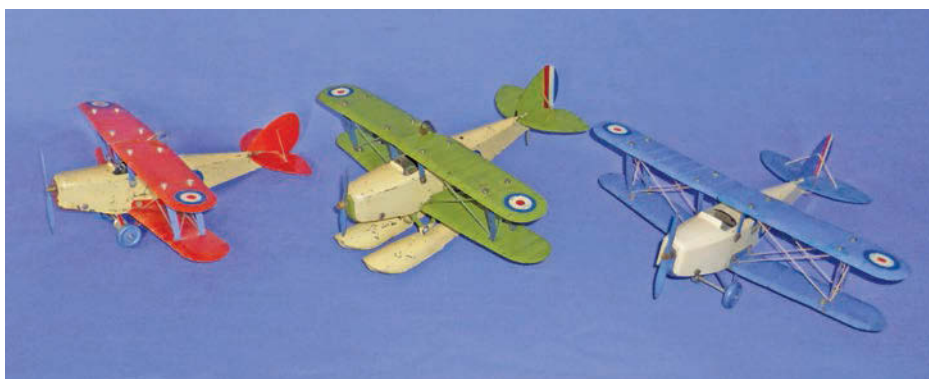
No. 1 and No. 2 Biplanes, both with civil registration numbers.



ABOVE Strengthening fluting on the upper fuselage parts can be clearly seen on these No. 2 (left) and No. 1 Biplanes. Note the flat tinplate wings on early modes.



ABOVE No. 2 Seaplane (left) and a part No. 2 mixed with No. 2S freelance Seaplane from 1934.



ABOVE From 1934, here you can see No. 0 and No. 00 Biplanes in the three colour schemes produced for the UK market. A charming trio of models.

floats, three cast engines and engine nacelles, plus parts to increase the wingspan and fuselage length. The standard colour scheme for both outfits reflected the typical interwar military schemes, being overall silver with navy blue contrast trim, plus red, white and blue RAF roundels for the wings and fuselage.

It is worth noting that the Aeroplane Constructor parts were completely different to standard Meccano with large fabricated metal wings and fuselage. In fact the only common/interchangeable parts between the new Aero outfits and standard Meccano were the 5/32" dome head bolts and square nuts used to hold the parts together.

Early No. 1 and No. 2 outfits can be distinguished from later production by

the smooth tinplate fuselage and flat tinplate plate wings. As early as February 1932 Meccano announced improvements by introducing longitudinal fluting to improve the strength of the upper fuselage. In February 1932 a No. 1 outfit was priced at 9s (45p) and a No. 2 outfit at 16s 6d (82.5p).

In May 1932 further improvements were announced with the introduction of a cambered wing section, which not only offered greater strength over the early flat plate wings, but also looked far more realistic too. At the same time a smaller wheel was also introduced along with wheel spats and the colour scheme was amended to all over silver with red upper fuselage and wingtips.

NO. 0 AND NO. 00 OUTFITS

Despite the success of the No. 1 and No. 2 outfits the management at Binns Road was concerned that it was missing a significant part of the market due to the relatively high price and complexity of the sets. In November 1932 it introduced the No. 0 Aeroplane Constructor outfit. Priced at just 5s (25p), it was both cheaper and simpler than its predecessors and was aimed at younger children. This was a brand new design in all aspects and none of the parts were interchangeable with the bigger sets. Even the fixings were changed to 6BA bolts with hexagonal nuts. Colour options available were; green and cream, red and cream and blue and

white.

Despite its relative simplicity the No. 0 outfit still offered the opportunity to build a range of different aircraft including high and low wing monoplanes, seaplanes and biplanes. It was well received and was followed in August 1935 by the No. 00 outfit. This further cheapened the set by dispensing with the floats and offering only wheeled undercarriage options. At launch the No. 00 outfit was priced at just 3s 3d (16.5p).

In 1938 the No. 0 outfit was updated with a new colour pattern available in red and white and blue and white. In 1940, in keeping with the times, further additional schemes were added. The No. 0 was offered in Coastal Command Grey (Service Grey) with RAF roundels and a pilot figure in brown. The No. 00 was offered in green and brown camouflage scheme, again with RAF roundels but with no pilot figure.

NO. 1S AND NO. 2S OUTFITS

The December 1933 *Meccano Magazine* announced the introduction of two brand new outfits. Although based on the No. 1 and No. 2 outfits, these were much larger 'Special' sets offering a greater degree of realism and allowing a wider range of models to be built from a single-engine monoplane to a trimotor biplane airliner.

The 'S' outfits included new radial engine nacelles, moving elevators, rudder and ailerons, an enclosed cockpit canopy part and variations of interplane struts for the biplanes. The front fuselage

parts of the 'S' outfits were also longer than those of the standard sets and had different hole spacing so they were not compatible with the standard parts. New colour schemes were introduced for the 'S' outfits which now offered a choice of red and cream, blue and white, and green and cream. Each outfit included a very comprehensive set of instructions which covered, not only how to build the many variants of models, but also a full section of the theory of flight and control of an aeroplane. At introduction a No. 1S was priced at 16s (80p) and a No.2S at 25s (£1.25).

CIVIL MARKINGS

In 1938 the Aeroplane Constructor outfits were updated to include civilian registration markings for the wings and fuselage sides. This was applied across all the sets including 0, 00, 1, 2, 1S and 2S. In part two of this article I will cover the various accessories that were produced for the Aeroplane Constructor outfits, plus the sets produced by Binns Road for export markets, French produced sets and the sets that were announced but that sadly never made it to production as war forced production to cease. This will include a unique photograph of an Aeroplane Constructor model that never was! **CG**

Best of British

Palitoy

Rob Burman remembers the all-action company that ventured to the stars.



Growing up the Palitoy name didn't really mean a great deal. In fact, the name on the packaging of numerous *Star Wars* or Action Man figures was hardly noticed as they were gleefully ripped open to snag the contents inside. Now, of course, I realise just how much influence the Palitoy name had on my formative years, as many of my favourite toys – particularly those based on *Star Wars* – were all made by the Leicestershire-based company.

Nowadays, the Palitoy name is big business with collectors willing to pay large money for that all-important logo. Take the recent *Star Wars* auction at Vectis in which a Boba Fett figure sold for an incredible £18,000. In some ways it wasn't the figure that people were paying for, it was the name on the blister pack because the Palitoy logo was slightly unusual compared to more common examples. Now auctioneers are crying out for those original Palitoy *Star Wars* figures because there simply aren't enough to go around – once again another testament to the company's influence.

Before we move on to the history of Palitoy, it's worth mentioning that interest in the company is still so high that urban legends about it are in abundance. One of the most engaging is that when the factory closed hundreds, if not thousands, of *Star Wars* figures were sent to landfill.

Many have tried to pinpoint where that landfill might be, just in case the figures have somehow survived. Now, this may sound fanciful but a similar rumour did the rounds about Atari's *ET* videogame, released in 1982. Atari had high hopes for the game, as it was based on the hugely popular Spielberg film, and manufactured five million cartridges – sadly only one and a half million were sold and the rest had to be sent to landfill. Incredibly the landfill site was located last year and 1,300 of the original 700,000 cartridges were discovered, with others buried too deep to excavate. So, some urban

celluloid toys to sell in its stores. In 1920 it placed orders for several Cascelloid items, including a toy windmill known as the Flitafast. A bit like Airfix, Cascelloid also produced hair slides, rattles, egg timers and other kitchen utensils... toys were just part of the business.

Things were going well until a fire in September 1927, which destroyed the Britania Street factory, along with an entire stock of products and raw materials. Even worse, one worker was killed in the blaze. Despite this tragic set back a new factory was opened six months later in a new

Throughout the '40s and '50s Cascelloid continued to add to its toy range and began producing push and pull-along toys, squeaky baby toys, model vehicles, fancy dress costumes, board games and even table tennis sets. However, it was really the mid 1960s that saw the company rise to new levels, thanks to the introduction of the Tiny Tears doll in 1965 and then Action Man a year later. Now trading as Palitoy, the company fought off fierce competition from Lines Bros to acquire the production rights to create toys based on Hasbro's exceptional GI Joe line of boy's 'dolls'.



Although Palitoy is best known for Action Man and *Star Wars*, the company's history dates back to 1919 when, at the age of just 18, it was founded by Leicestershire-born Alfred Pallet.



legends are true... time to get your metal detectors out everyone!

Although Palitoy is best known for Action Man and *Star Wars*, the company's history dates back to 1919 when, at the age of just 18, founder Alfred Pallet decided to set up a company to manufacture celluloid and plastic fancy goods, including a small amount of toys. Originally the firm was known as Cascelloid Limited and progress was exceptionally slow – in the first year it only made £90. Cascelloid's first factory was based inside an old lodging house in Britania Street, Leicester. However, the company was saved – like so many early toy manufacturers – by Woolworth's, who wanted cheap

location: Cobden Street, Leicester. Once in the new premises, things progressed at a rapid pace and by 1930 Cascelloid was employing 250 people and manufactured products for Woolworth's, Marks and Spencer, Boots, Rowntrees, Courtaulds and Huntley Palmer. Then in 1931 Cascelloid became a subsidiary of British Xylonite Company Ltd. which specialised in plastic innovations – in fact, it was the first company to use injection-moulding to make products. By 1937 new premises had to be opened in Coalville on the site of a billiard/dance hall. That same year the 'Palitoy Playthings' trademark began to be used on a new range of soft-bodied dolls.

The story goes that Palitoy sales director Hal Belton bought his grandson a GI Joe figure during a trip to the States and, once he realised how much his grandson loved it, he quickly took the toy into work to show general manager Miles Fletcher. Initially there were concerns about whether boys should play with a 'doll' and, in fact, the term was banned when discussing the range. Despite this Action Man was launched in 1966 and, although at first they were just repackaged GI Joes, in the 1970s Palitoy began producing its own British-themed figures.

In 1968 the Palitoy division was sold to American company General Mills Incorporated, which despite being a food company, had diversified into

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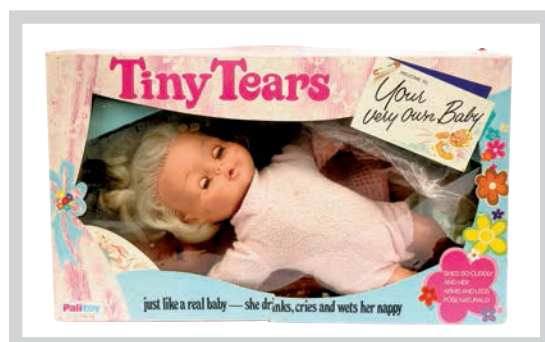
ABOVE

Some of Palitoy's best products were a series of 'talking' toys, like this Dalek and even a talking Batmobile. *Pictures: Vectis.*



ABOVE

From its humble beginnings, Palitoy went on to create a wide variety of different plastic toys.



ABOVE

Along with Action Man, the toy that helped propel Palitoy to stardom in the '60s was the Tiny Tears doll.



ABOVE

Although Palitoy's *Star Wars* action figures have become famous, it made a huge selection of *Star Wars*-themed collectables.

consumer products with the acquisition of Parker Bros. and Kenner. This link with Kenner led to one of the most important periods of Palitoy's history and, after sub-licensing the *Star Wars* rights from Kenner, it began releasing *Star Wars* toys in 1978. By November 1978 the company had grown to 1,000 employees and sales topped £20 million – the demand, in particular, for *Star Wars* products was phenomenal and initially the company struggled to keep up.

In fact, this struggle to keep up with demand is now why so many collectors are keen to acquire those original Palitoy *Star Wars* toys because they simply weren't produced in the same huge quantities as figures from the follow-up films. Movie legend states that most studios expected *Star Wars* to be a huge flop, so Kenner and Palitoy were understandably cautious about flooding the market with stock. George Lucas, on the other hand, was confident and made millions from the merchandising rights.

However, despite this success, in the early 1980s General Mills' passion for acquiring more and more companies proved to be its undoing. In 1981 Palitoy, Denys Fisher, Chad Valley and the recently acquired Airfix were all based at the Coalville factory and redundancies soon followed. The death knell for Palitoy sounded in 1984 though when General Mills stopped all European production and the company switched from manufacturing to marketing/distributing for two years until its closure in 1986. More than 60 years of the Leicester company was brought to an end but the name will live on for much longer. **CG**



ABOVE

As well as manufacturing its own products, Palitoy imported numerous toys from America.



ABOVE

As smaller action figures became more popular, Palitoy launched the Action Force series of Action Man toys.



ABOVE

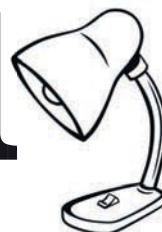
Palitoy experimented with numerous TV and film licenses, here you can see an Archie Andrews ventriloquist doll.



ABOVE

It's all in the name! This Boba Fett figure sold for £18,000 at Vectis Auctions because of the unusual Palitoy packaging.

Under the spotlight



This issue finds **Alwyn Brice** all at sea.

I've decided that the *Gazette* doesn't tend to carry too much in the way of words on matters nautical – so this time around, I thought that I'd rectify the situation. So, our toy this month is revealed here in all its wooden glory. Yes, we're used to see tinsplate boats from Sutcliffe and the like, but here's something rather more unusual and, like so many of the toys covered in this column, the potentially simple exterior hides some wonderful innovation.

It's a Dreadnought, although I should point out to any non-naval readers or historians that the term Dreadnought was first used in connection with battleships, way back in the early 1900s. If, however, you feel that you've come across a Dreadnought submarine, you'd also be right, for the first British nuclear submarine, confusingly, also bore that moniker.

But I digress. The splendid toy that is pictured here represents yet again the ingenious thought processes that go on in the back rooms when it comes to toy development. The brief would have been simple: build and market a toy that could replicate the sinking of a battleship by a submarine. At the time, before the Great War, battleships were coming of age, whereas the submarine was only just beginning to show what it could do. But how on Earth would you create something that didn't rely on a trusty Edwardian bathtub? Well, the table top provided the answer here.

There's no British company name mentioned on the box or inside: instead, it merely states "Made in England under

Royalty", together with a patent number. A dramatic lid bearing monochrome artwork explains it all but there are instructions inside, too. Essentially, this set comprises a wooden sub with a clutch of (wooden) torpedoes: push the torpedo into the tube and click down the hinged arm to secure it. Add the periscope and you're ready to hunt.

Your prey, the hapless battleship (which always loses, since it can't defend itself!) is a bit more complex. First you need to set the mousetrap spring mechanism in the hull and insert the wooden dowel through the red hole on the ship's side. Then you build up the ship by placing the wooden parts on the superstructure. That done, you can steam off across the table or carpet if you prefer an imaginary ocean.

Of course, once your sub is primed, it's merely a question of navigating to a favourable position, depressing the brass lever mounted over the hull and releasing the torpedo. If your aim is good, then this latter projectile strikes the dowel, which in turn impacts the spring, resulting in the battleship flying apart. Heaps of fun, it has to be said.

This is a rare toy in my estimation, since I've only ever seen one other example in the UK. However, traverse the Pond and you'll find the same thing made by A Schoehut of Philadelphia. Over there, in typical US style, there appears to be more of a choice and on the internet I've spotted one ship with two submarines (a sort of putative mini wolf pack!) and a bigger set, containing two ships (one with an impressively stepped superstructure and two weak points) along with a pair of subs. It's annoying not knowing who made the UK version, though: can any reader assist, just write in to the usual *Collectors Gazette* address. **CG**



This is a great example of a toy doing exactly what it says on the box. But who made the UK version?



Here are the many different wooden pieces for the ship and sub finished in battleship grey, of course.



One away! A wooden torpedo heads towards its prey. All the fun of the sea, but without the need to actually get wet...

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Friday 17th - Model Train Sale

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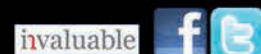
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NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
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PRICE GUIDE

Expand your Dinky Toys knowledge with our special two-page price guide, plus East Bristol Auctions sells a range of TV and film collectables.



◆Britains Herald Series 423 Confederate Cavalry Trooper from American Civil War, figure is near mint, with original packing tissue, early box is excellent, apart from small tear to one end flap. **Sold for £30, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains Swoppets 631 Cowboy Bank Robber Mounted, scarce later horse, with red/black issue box, in near mint boxed condition. **Sold for £35, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains Swoppets 638 Cowboy Resting Mounted, with orange/black issue box, in mint boxed condition. **Sold for £30, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains 1451 Swopet 15th Century Mounted Knight, charging with lance, on horse with saddle, reins, blanket, red lance, blue shield/red rose, mint condition, with second issue window box. **Sold for £80, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains Herald Set 4401 Knights, five knights on foot, in window display box, mint boxed. **Sold for £20, C&T Auctions, January.**

◆Britains 1452 Swopet 15th Century Mounted Knight, attacking with sword, horse, saddle, reins, caparison, blue shield/red rose, in mint condition, with second issue window box. **Sold for £90, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains 4716 Scarce Farm Cottage, clip together plastic model, in mint boxed unmade condition, a super example. **Sold for £140, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains Swoppets 640 Cowboy Prisoner Mounted, blue shirt, tan horse, in orange/black issue box, in mint boxed condition. **Sold for £45, C&T Auctions, January.**



◆Britains 4720 Wild West Make Up Model Livery Stable/Farmyard Barn, clip together plastic building, with instructions and decals, in excellent condition (contents un-checked) box has slight wear. **Sold for £90, C&T Auctions, January.**

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♦Dinky Toys No. 260 Royal Mail Van, in original yellow all-card picture box, which requires cleaning. Very good to near mint, box good to very good. *Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 181 Volkswagen Saloon, in original all-card picture box, with correct colour spot. Near mint, box very good. *Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 480 Bedford 'Kodak' Delivery Van, in original all card picture box. Very good to near mint, box very good. *Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 162 Ford Zephyr Saloon, in original all card yellow picture box, with correct colour spot. Very good condition, box very good. *Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 232 Alfa Romeo Racing Car, racing number eight with silver detailed grille, in original yellow card picture box, very good to near mint, box good. *Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 230 Talbot Lago Racing Car, racing number four, silver detailed grille, one tyre is mis-shaped, in original box. Very good, box good. *Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 233 Cooper-Bristol Racing Car, racing number six with silver detailed grille, black base with 233 number, in original box. Very good to near mint, box good. *Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 234 HWM Racing Car, racing number seven, silver detailed grille, in original box (signs of crushing). Very good, box good. *Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 234 Ferrari Racing Car, racing number five, in original box. Good to very good, box good. *Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 131 Cadillac Eldorado, in original box with correct colour spot. Very good to near mint, box very good. *Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 172 Studebaker Land Cruiser, in original box with correct colour spot. Very good to near mint, box good to very good. *Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 340 Land Rover, green interior, in original card box with incorrect green colour spot. Very good to near mint, box very good. *Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 107 Sunbeam Alpine Sports, racing number 34, windscreen apparent, some rubbing to one racing number transfer, in original box with correct colour spot. Very good, box good. *Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK120, in original type three picture box, with correct colour spot. Very good to near mint, box good to very good. *Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 254 Austin Taxi, in original 254 all-card picture box with green colour spot. Near mint, box good to very good. *Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.*

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

1662

The earliest recorded attempt to make a double decker 'bus' is 1662.

79

Dinky Toys ceased production in 1979, more than 40 years after they were first produced in Liverpool.

40h

The Dinky Toys Austin Taxi was renumbered from 40h to 254 in 1956.

2005

Rover branded cars ceased production at the Longbridge plant in 2005.



♦Dinky Toys No. 261 Telephone Service Van, white Post Office Telephones transfer, in original box, torn to one corner. Near mint, box good. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 415 Mechanical Horse and Open Wagon, in original box. Near mint, box very good. **Sold for £45, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 171 Hudson Commodore Sedan, in original all card type one box, some paint flecks to box. Very good, box good. **Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 255 Mersey Tunnel Police Van, 'Mersey Tunnel' transfer to doors and police transfers above windscreen, boxed. Very good, box good. **Sold for £50, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 290 Double Decker Bus, with 'Dunlop the World's Master Tyre' livery, in original box with green colour spot. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 651 Centurion Tank, unpersished black tracks, in original box. Very good to near mint, box very good. **Sold for £40, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 982 Pullmore Car Transport with detachable loading ramp, no window glazing, in original box and card sleeve. Near mint, box very good. **Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 972 Coles 20-ton Lorry Mounted Crane, original hook attached, in original box with two packing pieces. Very good, box very good. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 153 Standard Vanguard Saloon, third type casting with Vanguard cast into roof, in original card box with blue colour spot. Near mint, box good. **Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 106 Austin Atlantic Convertible A90, in original worn box with correct colour spot. Very good, tyres require cleaning, box good. **Sold for £90, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 152 Austin Devon Saloon, late example with Devon cast into the underside of the roof, in original card box with correct colour spot. **Sold for £260, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 154 Hillman Minx Saloon, second type casting, in original box with correct colour spot. Near mint, box good to very good. **Sold for £280, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 156 Rover 75 Saloon, in original box with correct colour spot, some rubbing to roof. Very good to near mint, box very good. **Sold for £340, Lacy, Scott & Knight, February.**



♣ Lone Star Dan Dare Space Gun, made in 1950s, red colouring. Complete with reproduction box. *Sold for £30, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Palitoy Doctor Who Talking K-9, 1978, in original box with disc and original inner packaging. *Sold for £160, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Bandai Tamagotchi Cyber Pet, sealed in original packaging. *Sold for £24, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Corgi Toys No. 930 James Bond 007 Moonraker Drax Jet Ranger, in original box, appears unused, with original band still holding helicopter in box. *Sold for £50, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Kenner MASK Meteor, 1980s, boxed, with action figure. *Sold for £32, East Bristol Auctions, January.*

♣ Knickerbocker Star Trek Soft Poseable Mr. Spock, 1979, in original packaging. *Sold for £18, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Kenner MASK Stinger, 1980s, in original box. *Sold for £34, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Corgi Toys No. 271 James Bond 007 Aston Martin DB5, complete in original box. *Sold for £80, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Ideal Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle, in original box with two figures. *Sold for £70, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Kenner MASK Detonator, 1980s, appears complete with original box, including some interior packaging. Three figures. *Sold for £34, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Mattel Masters of the Universe He-Man Castle Grayskull, in original box, complete including interior pieces and instructions. *Sold for £95, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Hasbro Transformers G1 Galvatron, in original box. *Sold for £32, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Corgi Toys No. 266 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, complete with all original figures and wings, unboxed. *Sold for £40, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Hasbro Transformers G1 Jetfire, with original box. *Sold for £55, East Bristol Auctions, January.*



♣ Corgi Toys No. 268 The Green Hornet Black Beauty, complete with spinning disc to rear and missile to front, unboxed. *Sold for £38, East Bristol Auctions, January.*

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eBuys

Gerry Anderson's **Fireball XL5** proves a hit this issue, as eBay bidders also close in on a Britains tractor, Corgi diecast and some vintage tinplate toys.



♣ **Britains No. 171F Fordson Power Major Metal Wheeled Tractor**, a very nice example of this brightly-coloured tractor with some slight shelf wear to the box. Ex shop stock. **£970 (13 bids)**



♣ **Corgi Toys GS21 Chipperfields Circus Crane, Scammell Cab & Menagerie Trailer Set**, 100% complete and 100% original boasted the listing for this very clean example. **£699.95 (Buy it Now)**



♣ **Corgi Toys GS40 The Avengers**, another very nice Corgi Gift Set, this time inspired by the adventures of Steed and Emma Peel. In superb condition, complete with three original umbrellas. **£601 (11 bids)**



♣ **Tri-ang Scalextric Super 124 Lotus Indianapolis Ref 24C-500 Ace GP**, finished in 1/24 scale this delightful slot car had decals in pretty good condition and 'ok' tyres. **£575 (three bids)**



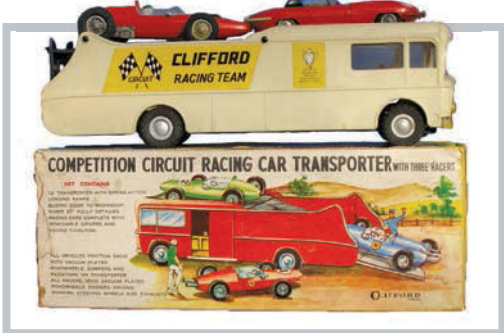
♣ **Codeg Mechanical Dalek**, these tinplate Daleks from Codeg are among the most sought after *Doctor Who* collectables. This example was in excellent working condition, with some faults. **£489 (Buy it Now)**



♣ **Lehmann No. 683 Halloh Motorcyclist**, here's a bit of a 'fixer upper' because the motor didn't work on this vintage wind-up toy. Still, that didn't deter everyone and several bidders fancied a project. **£1,030 (32 bids)**



♣ **Crescent Toys Atomic Jet Gun**, no, don't worry, this doesn't shoot deadly rays of radiation, instead it's a water pistol based on the 'Hiller' Atom Ray Gun from the 1940s. The box had some wear. **£500 (one bid)**



♣ **Clifford Series F1 Car Transporter**, similar to the superb Corgi Ecurie Ecosse transporter, this equally impressive plastic version hailed from the 1950s and came with three cars. **£490 (24 bids)**



♣ **Multiple Toy Makers Steve Zodiac's Fireball XL5 Space City Playset**, made in 1964, it's rare to see this impressive large-scale toy in such amazing condition, let alone with the box. **£1,435 (Best Offer)**

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On parade at Sandown

Atten-shun! **Alwyn Brice** takes a look at the military side of life at Europe's most popular toy fair.



If it's a theme you're after, then Sandown Park never disappoints. This time around I thought I would concentrate on military toys – and the choice was impressive indeed. Dealer and collector Dave Wallace admits to having around 5,000 bus models at home, which is why he was disposing of his large tinplate Wells (or was it Mettoy?) searchlight lorry. This was battery powered with a fixed key and was, in his own words, taking up too much floorspace. Beautifully lithographed in camouflage, the truck still retained its quota of servicemen (often AWOL) and he was hoping for around £385 – although he would have been happy to have taken it back home after

the show...

Brian Hartill's stock in trade is generally good boxed diecasts from the minor makers. However, on this occasion he did have a couple of lovely Crescent military models which I'd not come across before. The tank set, confusingly, comprised a simple Cruiser tank – would there have been more originally? Hard to know unless you've seen another example: his was for sale at £70. Even more interesting was the Mechanised Transport set that included a flak lorry towing what appeared to be a cannon from a previous century! A great example of stuffing any old thing into a box and retailing it, the cannon could even be made to

fire. There were figures with this set, plus original tissue paper... £120, if you wanted it.

The stunning Meccano seaplane on Andrew Woodhall's booth, finished in cream and green, wasn't quite military but was simply gorgeous: sporting Dutch insignia, it was boxed and was for sale at just under £1,000. For far less, £65 to be exact, you could have picked up a little glassed vignette of flats, probably German, depicting four infantry and a mounted officer representing infantry of the line in the latter stages of the Napoleonic Wars. Well painted, the figures were set in a shallow frame with a suitable background; dealer Ken Simmonds reckoned it was of some age.

While talking to Julian Ryder about his enormous (20 inches long) 1930s tinplate airship (called the Los Angeles and produced by the Buffalo Tool and Toy Company of New York), an elderly lady stopped and told me she recalled seeing something similar heading off to Germany when she'd lived on the English coast many, many years back. The toy was in splendid condition, containing wood and plastic parts too, and ran on a pull-and-release mechanism. At £495 it wasn't cheap, though.

Julian's other toys included a warship building kit. This bore a German name (Schiffsbaukasten), which translates as a shipbuilding

ABOVE Britain's searchlight in superb condition with a selection of Johillco pilots, ready for the scramble.

model: this example, though, dated from the pre-WW2 era, and came with instructions in Czech! To add to the confusion, there was a neat



Unknown (US?) tinplate cannon spotted on Steve Viccars' stall.



FAR RIGHT Well-painted flats, representing French Line infantry, had been treated to a simple backdrop and then encased in a shallow glazed frame.

RIGHT From an altogether simpler age came these charming Crescent Toys boxed sets. It would be interesting to know if anything else was included with the tank (right).



LEFT Calling all stevedores! This kit would probably have required some head-scratching to assemble but luckily came with a photograph of the finished article.



stamp inside the lid to say that it had been through the Bath Toy Exchange at some stage. A basic toy, in some respects, relying on the builder merely placing the wooden parts on top of one another, it nonetheless looked great when assembled: it was £120. I've seen similar ships from around that era, which also rely on this simple assembly process.

Continuing the nautical theme, if the name Tremo rings a bell with you, then you'll be of a certain age. Tremo was a big name in waterline ship models, which enjoyed huge popularity back in the 1930s and 1940s. This company also manufactured a tiny (just three, to my knowledge) range of aircraft, very much in keeping with the Dinky versions of that time. One was the Handley Page Harrow; there was a Bristol Blenheim – and there was the immortal Hawker Hurricane. One of these latter models was glimpsed at Sandown, still with propeller intact: this was priced at £25 and was of lead alloy composition.

For something a little dangerous, you had to visit Steve Viccars' stall. He had a very clean, large-scale matchstick-firing cannon of unknown manufacture for a tenner. Finished in gloss olive drab and sporting rather fat-

tyred wheels, this all-tinplate example had a most definite American look and feel to it – and at the price, it must have been a bargain for someone.

On to Alan Latham who, as ever, had a huge array of boxed diecast models. Among these were some French military Dinky toys, which tend to be highly regarded. His Wrecker Truck in olive green is a bit more common than the sand version and his fine example was priced at £200; for very similar money you could have plumped for the ever-popular Brockway Pontoon Bridge Layer, which offers a great deal of toy for one model. Moving on, I was soon on familiar ground with Britains, whose military output down the decades was prodigious. The company's AA Searchlight, mounted on a trailer with a hand control to elevate and depress the light, is a great example of authenticity in my book: it's not rare but the model I saw on a stand was just about mint, and with an excellent box. As such, it was probably worth haggling around the £85 asking price. Nearby, something totally different was a group of Johillco lead WW2 pilots: these were for sale at £7 each.

Finally, a word with Ken Holmes, who specialises in military toys. His two



LEFT A rare survivor? This diminutive Tremo Hurricane was probably overlooked by many at Sandown.

man Lineol Morse/radio transmitter set was simply lovely (and functional) at £140: if you'd wanted to complete the outfit, then you'd have had to buy the tinplate transmitter lorry (Funkwagen?) that was retailed as a separate unit. This was truly stunning, with a similar unit located within the interior. However, at £1,850, it wasn't perhaps on everyone's shopping list... ■



Motoring On

Ann Evans reports on another success for the Gaydon Toy and Collectors Fair.

With the next Gaydon Toy and Collectors Fair due to take place next month, now seemed like a perfect time to cast our mind back to the last event in November and wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of toy collectors who went along to the fair. The show, which has only been running for about a year is gradually building up a good reputation among traders and collectors, and show manager at the Heritage Motor Centre, Tom Caren is hoping that the Warwickshire location will continue to bring in more and more people as time goes on.

Tom said: "We are delighted to welcome back the Toy and Collectors Fair which is incredibly popular with collectors of all ages. Visitors can buy, sell, exchange or value their vintage toys and collections, with prices starting from as little as a few pounds while rare items are expected to sell for hundreds."

This was the third toy fair held at Gaydon and over 100 exhibitors from all over the UK were there show-casing a huge range of collectables. Everything from diecast and dolls to teddies and tinplate. With the location being upstairs at the fabulous Heritage Motor Museum with its vast collection of historical British cars, visitors to the fair could also buy a discounted ticket to explore the whole of the museum. The *Gazette* as ever, took a leisurely peruse of what treasures had been brought along and as usual wasn't disappointed in finding some fascinating items.

Sandra Fallon and her husband John from nearby

Sutton Coldfield had a very varied stand with Tri-ang toys, dolls and teddies from different eras including a wonderful old 1920s antique doll with a composition body and bisque head on sale for £65. Another interesting toy that you don't see every day was a Japanese battery operated Teddy the Champ Boxing Bear going for £263.

"Because this is at the motor museum, we've brought along a lot of automobile models too," said Sandra. "And so far today we are doing quite good for sales."

Next we headed along to Dave and Daphne Brackstone's stand to see what gems from the 1950s and '60s they had brought along. We found a wonderful selection of children's boxed games including blow football, made by Berwick Games and selling for £15; a Spears Little Flower Maker with a price tag of £12; and a Passmore self testing numbers board game for home and school, priced at £28 made by Robert Gibson and Sons, a company that was founded back in 1919.

There were also robots – one cute little fellow that I had to buy carried a pencil, and when you sharpened your pencil in his tummy, it wound him up and he walked. A bargain for a fiver! And an original piece of memorabilia from the Addams Family – a boxed 'The Thing' priced at £45. And if batteries were still available for this toy, we would have been treated to the sight of a creepy hand crawling out of the box. But as you can no longer get the right sized batteries, we just had to imagine.

An unusual stand was Mini



TOP The Griffin-Taylor family from Cirencester admire Tracey Lippert's Mini Scenes.

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT Tracey Lippert with some of her Mini Scenes; Derek Morrison selling off an old friend's items; Alan Bradley. Pictures: Rob Tysall.

Scenes created by Tracey Lippert. These were dioramas which all told a story – a crashed spaceship, a wrecked mini in a barn, each one named, such as Take Me To Your Leader and Lost In The Woods. Intriguing stuff!

"I blame my dad for this," joked Tracey. "Since his retirement he has been making N gauge layouts and was itching to make me one. So I started making the

scenery – rocks, mountains, roads, tracks and trees. Then I found I had lots of little bits of scenery left over, so started making my own Mini Scenes, utilising damaged diecast minis and all sorts of bits of polystyrene – you become a scavenger!"

The *Gazette* then had an interesting chat with Marian Gradus who is originally from Poland. Marian specialises in customising model cars for

individuals who want exact models of their own vehicles. His expertise in this has earned him some prestigious clients over the years, including HRH The Queen, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, Prince William and Kate and many other famous names. And he has the royal thank you letters to show for his efforts.

His stand was almost like a lesson in European history, as

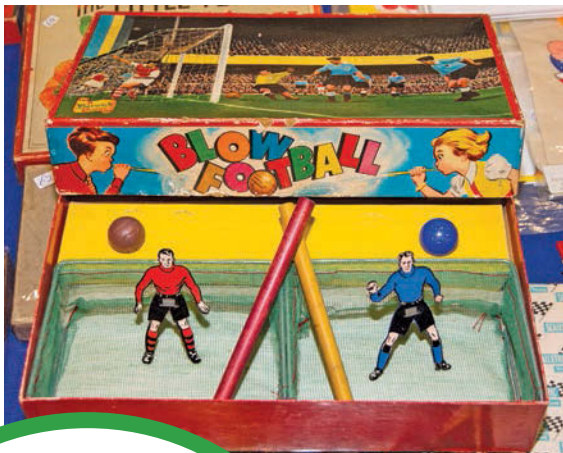




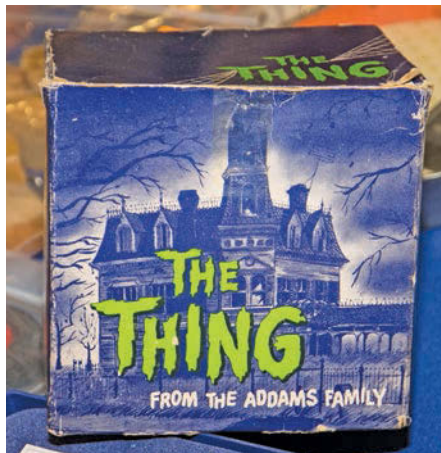
ABOVE Daphne Brackstone with some of her collectables.



ABOVE Robot pencil sharpener.



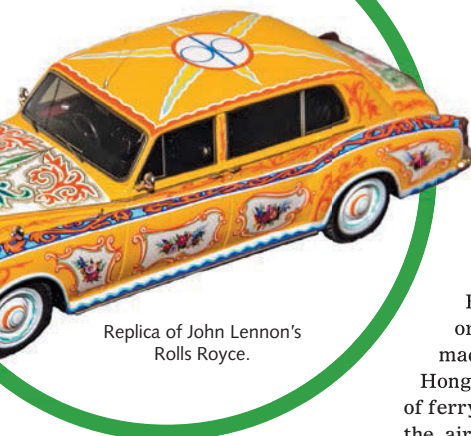
ABOVE Berwick's blow football.



ABOVE The Thing!



ABOVE Board games from the 1950s.



Replica of John Lennon's
Rolls Royce.

practically every car had a story behind it. There was a model of the car with figures that President John F Kennedy rode in on the tragic day of his assassination; John Lennon's Rolls Royce – which he famously re-painted himself much to the annoyance of RR,

who, allegedly, bought the car back off him and destroyed it! Marian's model was a True Scale 1965 Rolls Royce in 1/42 scale and selling for £110. Marian then showed us a stretched Bentley limousine – the original of which was made for a plush hotel in Hong Kong with the purpose of ferrying people to and from the airport. He then chatted about Kruschev's car which is based on the Buick and would have been used by Communist leaders; and Stalin's limousine based on a Packard Touring car, which America sent to Russia in the 1930s.

"With some small cosmetic modifications it was built as ZIL 110 and was used by Communist Russian leaders,"

said Marian who is now retired from working at Aerospace and Automotive Products.

He has been collecting since he was a boy of seven, and his collection includes all the East European cars manufactured - from the first to the latest in all the models. He is now very slowly starting to sell off his collection. Jokingly, he said, "I've made the decision to take life a little easier. My wife has told me I need to sell the collection or she will be putting it in a skip!"

Other traders the *Gazette* chatted to included Ken Hopkin of Ashorne near Warwick who had been collecting since his early 50s. He particularly likes old farm vehicles, and like many collectors, ended up with too much stuff. Trader Derek Morrison was also

selling an elderly female friend's collection as she had passed away. There were dolls and teddies, Paddington Bears, early Pelham puppets, Mickey's Magic Kaleidoscopes and many other items. And nearby, Alan Bradley got traders hula-hula dancing as he showed the *Gazette* a musical Homer Simpson.

Someone who was neither a collector or a model maker was Mark Trimble who explained that he was hoping to find a new owner for all the items which belonged to his late father, Victor. Mark had brought along a display of Dinky replica model aircraft construction kit parts that included propellers and wheels plus half-built aircraft in different scales and at different stages of construction.

"My dad was an aircraft enthusiast. He was a keen collector and a former pilot. I've kept a few items and one or two finished aircraft, but I'm hoping that someone who is as keen as my dad will buy these."

Altogether a fascinating show, with organiser Tom Caren bringing together a very varied group of traders and enthusiasts and was pleased with how the day had gone. "We have had crowds through the door despite the weather," said Tom. "From a traders' point of view they seem to have had a good day. Of course it would be nice to get even more people coming along. Toy fairs are few and far between around this area and so the public are missing out if they don't come to this fair." ■

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WWW.MASSIVEEVENTS.CO.UK/CHEVRON82 RADISSON BLU HOTEL, HEATHROW, LONDON

24 - 26 APRIL: SHERLOCKED

WWW.SHERLOCKED.COM EXCEL LONDON

2 - 4 MAY: PLAY EXPO BLACKPOOL

WWW.PLAYEXPO.NET NORBRECK CASTLE EXHIBITION CENTRE

30 - 31 MAY: FILM & COMIC CON MANCHESTER

WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONMANCHESTER.COM MANCHESTER

14 - 15 JUNE: COLLECTORMANIA 23

WWW.COLLECTORMANIA.COM STADIUM:MK ARENA

17 - 19 JULY: LONDON FILM & COMIC CON

WWW.LONDONFILMANDCOMICCON.COM/SUMMER OLYMPIA

15 - 16 AUGUST: FILM & COMIC CON SHEFFIELD

WWW.SHEFFIELDFILMANDCOMICCON.COM MOTORPOINT ARENA

22 - 23 AUGUST: FILM AND COMIC CON GLASGOW

WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONGLASGOW.COM BRAEHEAD ARENA

29 - 30 AUGUST: FILM & COMIC CON BOURNEMOUTH

WWW.BOURNEMOUTHFILMANDCOMICCON.COM BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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FAIRS

21 MARCH 15

- **Cardiff**, Film & Comic Con, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Hawkinge**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Oswestry**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579

22 MARCH 15

- **Cardiff**, Film & Comic Con, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Devizes**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Doncaster**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Ipswich**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283 or 01953 861348
- **Plymouth**, Mr P Simmons, 01752 846250
- **Potters Bar**, Peter Levinson, 0208 205 1518

24 MARCH 15

- **Tonbridge**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

25 MARCH 15

- **Petersfield**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

28 MARCH 15

- **London**, Toy Soldier Show, Guideline Publications, 01908 274433
- **Merseyside**, Hobbies & Model Railway Show, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Newcastle**, Film & Comic Con Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Stoke-on-Trent**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773

29 MARCH 15

- **Bristol**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Dartford**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Donington Park**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Eastleigh**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Llanelli/Swansea**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Merseyside**, Hobbies & Model Railway Show, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Newcastle**, Film & Comic Con Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Seaford**, Robert Horsecraft, 01323 899879

31 MARCH 15

- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

1 APRIL 15

- **Fairs Online**, Stop The Drop Auction, www.collectorsfaironline.co.uk
- **Fairs Online**, Stop The Drop Auction, www.antiquefaironline.co.uk
- **Fairs Online**, Stop The Drop Auction, www.toyandtrainfaironline.co.uk

2 APRIL 15

- **Theydon Bois**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

3 APRIL 15

- **Colchester**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Eastbourne**, Robert Horsecraft, 01323 899879
- **Slough**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Southport**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362

4 APRIL 15

- **Frodsham**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Port Talbot**, Sid Butler, 01639 643352

5 APRIL 15

- **Cirencester**, Ronnie Davies, 07708 385061
- **Falkirk**, McLaren Models, 01324 624102
- **Spalding**, Colin Boor, 07710 321471
- **Wallington**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

6 APRIL 15

- **Bridgnorth**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Huntingdon**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383

7 APRIL 15

- **Heywood**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640

8 APRIL 15

- **Tunbridge Wells**, C & T Auctioneers, 01737 555598

11 APRIL 15

- **Cardiff**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Nottingham**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790
- **Rugby Vintage**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

12 APRIL 15

- **Buxton**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Chipping Norton**, Don Davidson, 01608 641870
- **Kidderminster**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Raleigh**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Spalding**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **Wimborne**, David Rees, 01202 590158 or 01202 600121

14 APRIL 15

- **Elsecar**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640

16 APRIL 15

- **Salisbury**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

17 APRIL 15

- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138

18 APRIL 15

- **Chester**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toyfair, 01622 298159

19 APRIL 15

- **Brighton**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Kirkby-in-Ashfield**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790
- **Leeds (Pudsey)**, Steel Promotions, 0161 283 1255
- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Bolton**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

21 APRIL 15

- **Wootton Bassett**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

22 APRIL 15

- **Hoddesdon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

24 APRIL 15

- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138

25 APRIL 15

- **Horfield**, Bristol Train Show, 01934 838229
- **London**, British Model Soldiers Society, 01895 832757
- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138

26 APRIL 15

- **Carmarthen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Exeter**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Gaydon**, Heritage Motor Centre, 01926 641188
- **Lincoln**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **London**, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Norwich**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283 or 01953 861348
- **Orpington**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Wirral**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362

28 APRIL 15

- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

2 MAY 15

- **Beaconsfield**, Peter Levinson, 0208 205 1518
- **Blackpool**, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **Brecon**, Powys, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Horsted Keynes**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

3 MAY 15

- **Blackpool**, Showmasters, 01908 671138

- **Falkirk**, McLaren Models, 01324 624102
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Worthing**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

4 MAY 15

- **Blackpool**, Showmasters, 01908 671138
- **York**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383

5 MAY 15

- **Tonbridge**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

6 MAY 15

- **South Croydon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

8 MAY 15

- **Alfreton**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

9 MAY 15

- **Crowborough**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 0191 4201893/075940 35955

10 MAY 15

- **Chelmsford**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Doncaster**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Holt**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283 or 01953 861348
- **Kempton Park Racecourse**, RM Toys, 023 9238 1529
- **Potters Bar**, Peter Levinson, 0208 205 1518
- **Walsall Wood**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385

12 MAY 15

- **Rugby**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

13 MAY 15

- **Burton-upon-Trent**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

16 MAY 15

- **Hereford**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Oxford**, Richard Atkins, 01869 347489
- **Port Talbot**, Sid Butler, 01639 643352
- **Stoke-on-Trent**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773

AUCTIONS

21 MARCH 15

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms, 01636 605905

23 MARCH 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

24 MARCH 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

25 MARCH 15

- **Shrewsbury**, Halls Fine Art, 01743 450700
- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

26 MARCH 15

- **Wareham**, Cottes, 01929 552826

28 MARCH 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

6 APRIL 15

- **Internet Auction**, Trains, Planes & Automobiles, +61 (0) 2 4787 1590

15 APRIL 15

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

16 APRIL 15

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

17 APRIL 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

18 APRIL 15

- **Worcester**, Griffiths & Charles, 01905 720160

23 APRIL 15

- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction Gallery, 0114 281 6161

24 APRIL 15

- **Billinghurst**, Bellmans, 01403 700858

25 APRIL 15

- **Bristol**, East Bristol Auctions, 0117 9671000

28 APRIL 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

29 APRIL 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

30 APRIL 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

14 MAY 15

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

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(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

45
TABLES

CARDIFF

Saturday 11th April

10.30am-3pm

Penarth Leisure Centre,
Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff CF64 2NS

(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

120
TABLES

CARMARTHEN

Sunday 26th April
10.30am-3pm

Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Llansteffan Road,
Johnstown, SA31 3NQ

(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

80
TABLES

BRECON

Saturday 2nd May

10.30am - 3pm

Market Hall, Town Centre, Powys,
Mid Wales LD3 7LG

(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

80
TABLES

Tel: 01643 702757 / 07966 694579 www.chrisdyerfairs.com



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Future dates: 16th August and 13th December

For a full list of 2015 SRP Toyfairs please visit our website

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Int. Indoor Arena, Kings Bush Centre, Wood Green Animal Shelters, London Rd, Godmanchester
PE29 2NH. 10am - 3pm >> 230 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

SPALDING SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

Springfields Exhibition Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 3pm >> 150 tables >> 6ft table £28 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 3pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

YORK RACECOURSE BANK HOL MONDAY 4TH MAY

The Knavesmire Stand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
10am - 2.30pm >> 100 tables >> 6ft table £28 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 3pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

For bookings and further information please
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01522 880383

or email jandjairs@hotmail.co.uk

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For more details please contact John Parsonage 07881 555283
or Dennis Payne 01953 861348

Maidstone

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TOY SHOW
IN KENT**

MAIDSTONE VINTAGE TOY FAIR
SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2015

5 MINS WALK FROM
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AND RIDE SERVICE STOPS
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M20 AND M2. LARGE ON-SITE
CAR PARK (P&D). ALL DAY
REFRESHMENTS

Lockmeadow Market Hall & Leisure Complex, Barker Road, Hart Street Entrance, Maidstone
9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Admission: £2.00

**PLENTY TO
SEE ALL DAY**
-TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS,
TEDDY BEARS, MODELS
& MORE. FURTHER
INFORMATION

**TEL: (01622) 298159
(01732) 840787**



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PUDSEY CIVIC HALL

Dawson's Corner, Stanningley Road, LS28 5TA

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL

10.00am until 3.00pm

Buying and Selling Model Railways, Dinky,
Matchbox, Lledo, Trains, Tin Plate and Much More!

FLAT UNLOADING-CAFE-LICENSED BAR-SIGNPOSTED

Future dates: 7th June, 20th September and 13th December

Over 100
Tables

DETAILS AND
BOOKINGS

STEEL PROMOTIONS
TEL: 0161 283 1255 OR 0161 766 2012

DETAILS AND
BOOKINGS

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

Chipping Norton School
(on A361 Oxfordshire)

**COLLECTORS
TOY & TRAIN FAIR**
10.30am - 3.00pm

www.chippytoys.co.uk

Information + Bookings
Don Davidson 01608 641870



MERSEYSIDE HOBBIES & MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

SAT. & SUN. 28th & 29th MARCH, 2015

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE,

Wallasey Village CH45 3LN - Admission: Adult £4.50 Child £1.00
Open: Sat. 11 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Sun. 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

SOUTHPORT

GOOD FRIDAY, 3rd APRIL, 2015
SPLASH WORLD, DUNES LEISURE CENTRE,

Esplanade, PR8 1RX - 10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 65 STANDS - Admission: Adults £1.50 Children 50p

WIRRAL

SUNDAY, 26th APRIL, 2015
HULME HALL, PORT SUNLIGHT, WIRRAL,

CH62 5DH - 10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 65 STANDS - Admission: Adults £1.50 Children 50p

ENQUIRIES BARRY STOCKTON
0151-334 3362

www.barrystocktonfairs.co.uk

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SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 10.30am - 2pm

Fenton Community Centre, Manor Street, Fenton Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2PT

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NEW
EVENT

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 10.30am - 2.30pm

Frodsham Leisure Centre, Princeway, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6RX

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100 TABLES

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ADMISSION
£1.50

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 10.30am - 2pm

Gilt Edge Leisure Centre, Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster DY11 7DY



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TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIRS

HEYWOOD TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 7-9PM

Civic Centre, 3 Church Street, Heywood, Lancs OL10 1LW
Easy to find from M62. Take A6046 Heywood/Middleton exit approx 2 miles on left. Admission £1.50, Concessions/children £1 Early entry 4.30pm - £4

ELSECAR TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 7-9PM

Milton Hall, Fitzwilliam Street, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8EZ
(opposite Heritage Centre). Parking 150yds off Wentworth Street. Admission £1.50, Concessions/children £1 Early entry 4.30pm - £4

Buy, sell or swap model cars, buses, trucks and trains etc.
Bring your old toys for valuation from some of the UK's top dealers.
Great fairs to visit with a friendly atmosphere. Refreshments available.

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Attention!

The British Model Soldier Society's

80th Anniversary SHOW

Saturday 25th April 2015

The Holiday Inn, Coram Street,
London WC1N 1HT

Doors open at 10.30am,
(BMSS members 10am)

COMPETITIONS, TRADE STANDS,
PAINT 'N' TAKE, DEMONSTRATIONS

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and Waterloo
Competition Classes**

For show information,
phone: 01895 832757



Steven Clements Fairs

PETERSFIELD Wednesday 25th March

6.45pm - 8.45pm • Festival Hall Heath Road, GU31 4EA

EASTLEIGH Sunday 29th March

10.30am - 3pm • Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Passfield Avenue SO50 9NL

SLOUGH Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am - 3pm • Conference Centre, Farnham Road, SL1 4UT

SALISBURY Thursday 16th April

6.45pm - 8.45pm • United Reform Church, Fisherton St. SP2 7RG.

WOOTTON BASSETT Tuesday 21st April

6.30pm - 8.30pm • Memorial Hall, Station Road, SN4 7EE

ALTON Sunday 17th May

10.30am - 2pm • Alton Community Centre, Amery Road, GU34 1HN

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For details and bookings call 01380 725322 or 07958101891 • Email: clementsairs@aol.com

BULLDOG FAIRS

Bristol Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 29th March 10.30-3pm

Abbeywood Community School, New Road, Stoke Gifford.
BRISTOL. BS34 8SF
Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each
Up to 80 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking & Light refreshments



Shepton Mallet Toy Collectors Fair

Sunday 19th April 10.30-3pm

Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN
Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each
Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.
Next event: 7th June



Exeter Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 26th April 2015 10.30-3pm

Westpoint Arena, Clist St Mary, EXETER. EX5 1DJ
Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each
Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.
NEWSFLASH! Bakers Dolphin Travel will be running a coach
services to Exeter Westpoint for our fairs in January & April!



Bulldog Fairs 01373 452857 or 07917 125641

www.bulldogfairs.com

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CG/APR15

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Offer ends 30th April 2015.

Obsolete

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks, it never ceases to amaze me how collecting often revives long lost memories. For example, my dear old grandfather never had a car and relied on public transport all his life. He also had an unusual name for the big green trolleybuses that rumbled past his house every twenty minutes or so back in the 1950s – he called them ‘Tracklesses’. Not a word that you hear all that often these days, but to him and his pals a Trolleybus was always known as a Trackless. He could remember the days of the old

Talking of unusual stuff I was really chuffed to find a super old Hudson’s Soap string tin several weeks back at an antique fair and I reckon it was a real bargain, despite the £85 price tag. I’ve seen these little beauties make more than twice that price in the past so I know it was well worth the money. The seller told me it had stood on the counter of a hardware shop in Bristol for decades.

I have my eagle-eyed old pal The Ferret to thank for sifting out three scarce old diecast milk crates from a junk box at the Shepton Mallet Fleamarket. I knew instantly

Daisy. This hilarious female comedy act entertained folk throughout the war years and I couldn’t believe my eyes when I looked on the back to see that the photo had a message on the back and was signed by Gert and Daisy... what a great find. I wonder what it’s worth?

Very few diecast models came my way last month but I did manage to bag a really good Matchbox Yesteryear Y7 Four Ton Leyland Jacobs Biscuits Delivery Van for £45, which I thought was a super bargain. This was one of my great favourites of the original Yesteryear range

called William Lauder McAllister and he brought laughter to the crowds for decades until he was replaced by another famous clown by the name of Charlie Cairoli after the war. These enamel badges, of which numerous variations are known, were sold as souvenirs to visitors to the Tower Circus until the outbreak of World War Two.

A couple of old postcards from a pub called the Crooked House at Himley in Staffordshire made a fiver the pair and once again brought back fond memories. This is one of the weirdest pubs in the world where the floors and walls seem to defy gravity. You can feel drunk in this place without touching a drop of alcohol! I’ve sunk a few pints there on my travels when I’ve been in the area. The crooked windows, walls and floors were the result of mining subsidence creating a four foot drop from one end of the building to the other.

A great little I-Spy spotter book also made a fiver. In my view this is the best of all the I-Spy books for the transport enthusiast as it shows a wide range of road vehicles from the 1950s. Talking of the fifties a super little Benbros bulldozer in a great box sold for £40 and a Merit Scammell Scarab also in fabulous condition was soon snapped up by a model railway enthusiast for fifteen quid.

Well that’s about it for this month folks. Get ready for Easter and the re-start of all those lovely car boot sales... I can’t wait to get going again. **CG**

The Ferret was more than happy to take a tenner off me for three diecast milk crates - he then took great pleasure in telling me that he’d only paid a quid for all three! Oh well, least he bought me a pint on the way home.

electric trams, so when they dug up the tram lines retaining the old overhead electric cable system for the new-fangled ultra-modern trolleybuses it’s quite understandable how the term ‘Trackless’ was born. These memories were all revived recently when a friend offered me an enamel sign he’d had in his shed for decades. It read ‘RAILLESS STOP HERE’ and is a sign I’ve never come across before. I shelled out the forty quid he was asking for it without hesitation and stuck it up on the wall for the time being. It just proves that you never stop unearthing unusual stuff in this business.

when I saw them in his hand that they were from the large scale Lesney Milk Float. It was a lucky find and very fortunate for me as I needed them for my own milk float. The Ferret was more than happy to take a tenner off me for them – he then took great pleasure in telling me that he’d only paid a quid for all three! Oh well, at least he bought me a pint on the way home!

A few days later it was my turn to drop lucky while trawling through a suitcase of old photographs at an indoor boot sale. I noticed one photo had two familiar faces on it – it was none other than Gert and

as toy vehicles carrying advertising were few and far between in the fifties. This was an early casting as it is finished in that lovely deep maroon colour. Pity it didn’t have black plastic wheels – now that would have been a fantastic find! In real life these vehicles were based on the Leyland RAF Heavy Tenders used during the Great War.

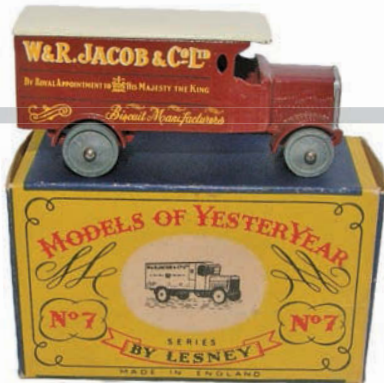
On the selling front a Doodles the Clown enamel badge soon found a buyer willing to pay a tenner for it. Doodles was the resident clown at Blackpool Tower Circus between 1915 and 1944. He was actually a Scotsman

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

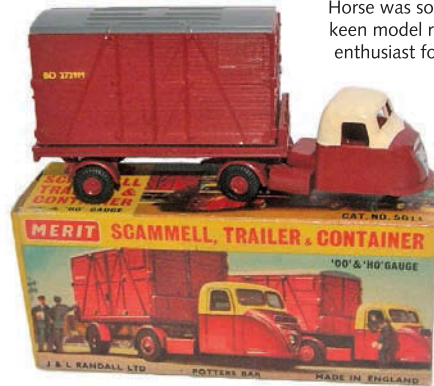
This rare string tin was used in an old hardware shop in Bristol for many years. It cost Oz £85 and he reckons that's a bargain.



This Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Y7 Leyland delivery van was surely well worth the £45 Oz paid for it?



Sold for a tanner, this enamel Doodles the Clown pin brooch dates from the years prior to World War Two.

**BELOW**

This Merit Scammell Scarab Mechanical Horse was sold to a keen model railway enthusiast for £15.

**ABOVE**

This photograph of the famous sister comedy act Gert and Daisy was found to have been signed by the popular wartime stars of screen and radio.

**ABOVE**

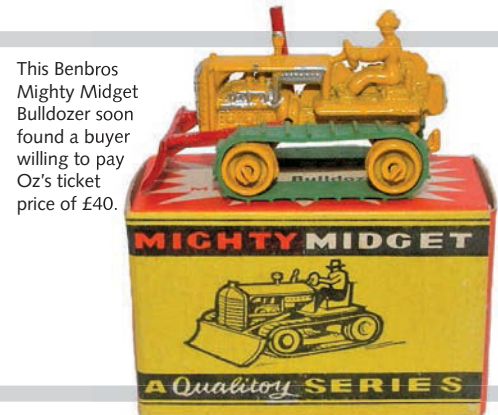
These two old postcards show the amazing 'Crooked House' at Himley where Oz has enjoyed a pint or three in the past. They sold for a fiver the pair.



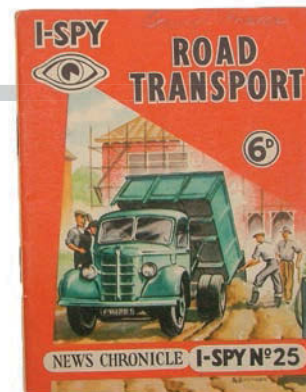
This unusual 'Railless' enamel bus stop sign had been kept in a shed for years. Oz was more than happy to hand over £40 for it.

**ABOVE**

A lucky find for The Ferret, these diecast milk crates were a fantastic buy for a mere £1. Oz was happy to give him a quick profit.



This Benbro's Mighty Midget Bulldozer soon found a buyer willing to pay Oz's ticket price of £40.



Full of interesting old vehicles from the 1950s this I-Spy spotter book sold for a fiver.

COLLECTORS
GAZETTETOP
TIPS**CHECK MATE**

With the forthcoming spring and summer booting season fast approaching make sure you check all possible avenues to see if the usual venues are operating normally. Local papers, free papers and the internet are excellent sources of information. Use the local library if you have to because it's all free there. Most importantly, check to see if there are any 'new' car boot sales in your area. Like everything else things can often change from one year to the next so it pays to keep yourself informed. As always...be lucky!

CLASSIFIEDS

RETAILERS

DEVON

EXETER ANTIQUE CENTRE on the Quay. Don't miss the first (or any!) instalment of an excellent lifetime's private collection of Dinky Toys (English & French), Corgi Toys, Spot-On Toys, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Britains and Continental diecast toys, etc now being sold from Cabinet 7 at the Antique Centre on the Quay, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4AP. The collection includes rare and unusual items for sale. There is an eclectic mix of collectables at the centre and it is well worth a visit at any time. Open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. A cafe is situated within the centre. Tel: Brian **01803 865581**. www.exeterquayantiques.co.uk

KINGSBRIDGE ANTIQUES & CRAFT CENTRE - Holiday in South Devon this year? Then why not visit Kingsbridge Antiques & Craft Centre on the corner of Church Street & Ebrington Street TQ7 1DE, just 5 minutes walk from the Quay Car Park and the Bus Station. An ever changing stock of Antiques & Collectables including Toys & Models, Books & Militaria. Open Monday to Saturday. Tel: **01548 856002** Website: www.kingsbridgeantiques.co.uk

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Buying and selling obsolete Corgi, Dinky, Railways, toys and Tinplate etc. • Tewkesbury Antiques Centre, Tolsey Lane, Tewkesbury, GL20 5AE Open 7 days. • Stuff Collectors Centre, Lansdowne Chambers, 18 Newerne Street, Lydney, GL15 5RF. Open 7 days. Telephone: **07973 768452**. Email: toymart@fsmail.net

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KENT

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Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Please check in advance if making a special journey.

LINCOLNSHIRE

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LONDON

COLLECTOR NEEDS information on Scottish pin-up model Jane Paul (other names Cathy Lovatt/Cathy McEwan). Modelled for Beautiful Britons, Spick Span, Spick and Span Extra, photo sessions September to October 1964. A gorgeous red head from Aberdeen or Glasgow. What else did Jane Paul do? Actress? Clothes model? Tel: **07982 263802**

ENGINE 'N' TENDER Established 1957 all secondhand Model Railways, Scalextric, Dinky, Corgi, Spot-On, Minic, Lesney, Britains, etc. Open Thursday to Saturday 12-5.30. Contact: J M Buttigieg, 19 Spring Lane, Woodside Green, London SE25 4SP. Tel: **020 8654 0386**

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STAFFORDSHIRE

THE TUTBURY JINNY We buy and sell new and second-hand Model Railways including - Hornby, Wrenn, Triang, Marklin, Bachmann, Lima, Dapol, Farish, LGB, etc. Contact: Barry Tutbury, Mill Mews, Lower High Street, Tutbury, Nr. Burton-upon-Trent. Tel: **01283 814777**

WALES

COLWYN BAY - Clwyd Models Second hand Model Railways, Books, Videos, Diecast etc bought

& sold. Open Times: Thurs, Fri, Sat only 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm. 447 Abergele Rd, Old Colwyn, Conwy. Tel: **01492 518709** Email: clwydmodels@tiscali.co.uk

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REWIND VINTAGE TOYS. We deal in Vintage toys from 1960's 70's 80's from action figures/TV/sci-fiction toys, vintage/modern die-cast. Unit 68, Wolverhampton Indoor Market, WV3 0SF. Open Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat 9am-4pm. Call: **07969 050421**. Web: www.rewind-vintage-toys.co.uk

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wanted as used for boxes and advertising. Also comic and book artwork please offer any interesting items. toysandhobbies@btinternet.com or **07962 251397**

COLLECTION OF DINKY,

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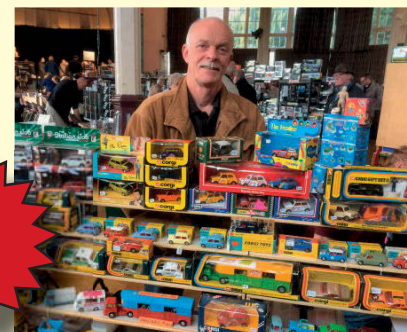
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THE BIG ONE IN THE NORTH WEST

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STALLS



SELLING YOUR TOYS & MODELS?

Warwick and Warwick have an expanding requirement for toys and model collections, British and worldwide and for diecast models, trains/train sets, model soldiers and toys of individual value. Our customer base is increasing dramatically and we need an ever larger supply of quality material to keep pace with demand. The market has never been stronger and if you are considering the sale of your collection, now is the time to act.

FREE VALUATIONS

We will provide a free, professional and without obligation valuation of your collection. Either we will make you a fair, binding private treaty offer, or we will recommend inclusion of your property in our next specialist public auction.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

We can arrange insured transportation of your collection to our Warwick offices completely free of charge. If you decline our offer, we ask you to cover the return carriage costs only.

FREE VISITS

Visits by our valuers are possible anywhere in the country or abroad, usually within 48 hours, in order to value larger collections. Please telephone for details.

ADVISORY DAYS

We are staging a series of advisory days and will be visiting the following towns within the next few weeks,
Wigan, Haydock, Cambridge, Newmarket, St. Andrews, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Swindon, Tamworth, Shrewsbury, Sittingbourne, Henley on Thames, Bedford, Mansfield, Midhurst, Bognor Regis, Isle of Man, Bath and Stoke on Trent.
Please visit our website or telephone for further details.

EXCELLENT PRICES

Because of the strength of our customer base we are in a position to offer prices that we feel sure will exceed your expectations.

ACT NOW

Telephone or email Richard Beale today with details of your property.



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